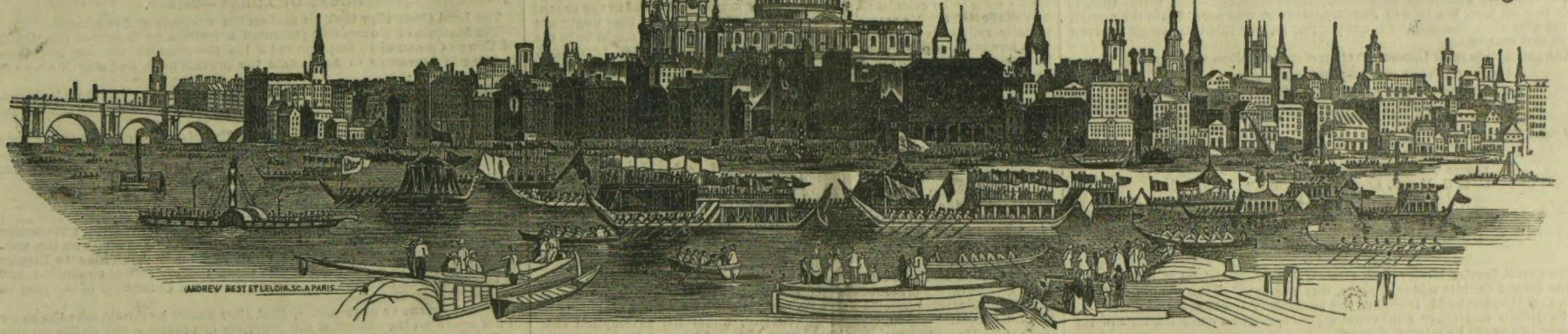


THE ILLUSTRATED LONDON NEWS



No. 146.—Vol. VI.]

FOR THE WEEK ENDING SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 15, 1845.

[SIXPENCE.]

THE INCOME TAX.



S SIR Robert Peel is by no means one of those who "wear their hearts upon their sleeve," but up to the last moment keeps his intentions pretty well to himself, the period preceding the "financial statement" of this year, has been one of unusual speculation. Every interest that had a peculiar burden to complain of or a special impost to endure,

(as which of them has not?) has been calling by no means inaudibly, on the Minister for relief. The landed interest has many grievances, but as one must be selected from the rest, it has taken the malt tax and urges the policy of its repeal. The manufacturers come forward with complaints of the duties on raw cotton and other materials, small in amount, but in the keen competition of nations in the race of commerce, adding the feather weight to their burdens which keeps them—not behind, perhaps—but something less in advance. Then are heard the allegations of all the branches of manufactures subjected to the excise, which Dr. Johnson long ago described as "a hateful tax," and time has not lessened the causes of the Doctor's aversion, but rather increased them. The Soap manufacturers have met, under the sanction implied by the presence of many Members of Parliament, including an ex-Minister among them, and shown forcibly enough that the duties are in their effects on the article itself, mischievous, increasing cost, deteriorating quality, and preventing improvement; that with respect to the people they amount to a tax on one, at least, of the virtues—that of cleanliness. The Glass and Paper makers have nearly as much cogency of fact and argument on their side, when they advance the same claim to relief; the exciseman's supervision confines every step of the necessary processes to the old path, and with its hands tied by Acts of Parliament and Board orders, modern enterprise cannot freely employ modern science, skill, or discovery, though ever so much disposed to do so. An improvement in any branch would be a private gain and a public benefit; but the Excise makes it a crime, and at best it has to be driven to consent to it by much trouble and loss of time. Then there are all the different importing interests—the Tea trade, the Sugar interest, the Timber interest, all have some claim of modification or remission of a tax or taxes to prefer, and they do it loudly enough. The cries that surround the Premier are much like the many voices, and all of woe, that greeted Dante, as he crossed the threshold of his Inferno.

*Diversi lingue, orribili favelle,
Parole di dolore, accenti d'ira.*

All this the Minister hears, indeed, but hearing heeds not; his position has accustomed him to such sounds, and it is not his duty to select one class in preference to another, but to do that which shall be, or at least appear to be, the best for all. And in fact if he would select, where could he begin? It is true that the revenue of the country at the present moment exceeds its expenditure, but not to so great an amount, nor raised by such a means as would justify the large sacrifice which the remission of any one of these duties and imposts would occasion. It must be recollected that the whole of our present surplus springs exclusively from the Income Tax. Without it the deficiency of the revenue, as compared with expenditure, is very little less than under the unpropitious financial régime of the Whigs. The prosperity does not arise from the natural overflowing of the stream of national wealth but from the quantity that has been drawn from the reservoir. The indirect taxation levied on imports and articles of consumption has not risen to the level of the public expenditure. There is still a deficiency which has to be made up by a direct drain on the wealth of the people by means of individual contributions.

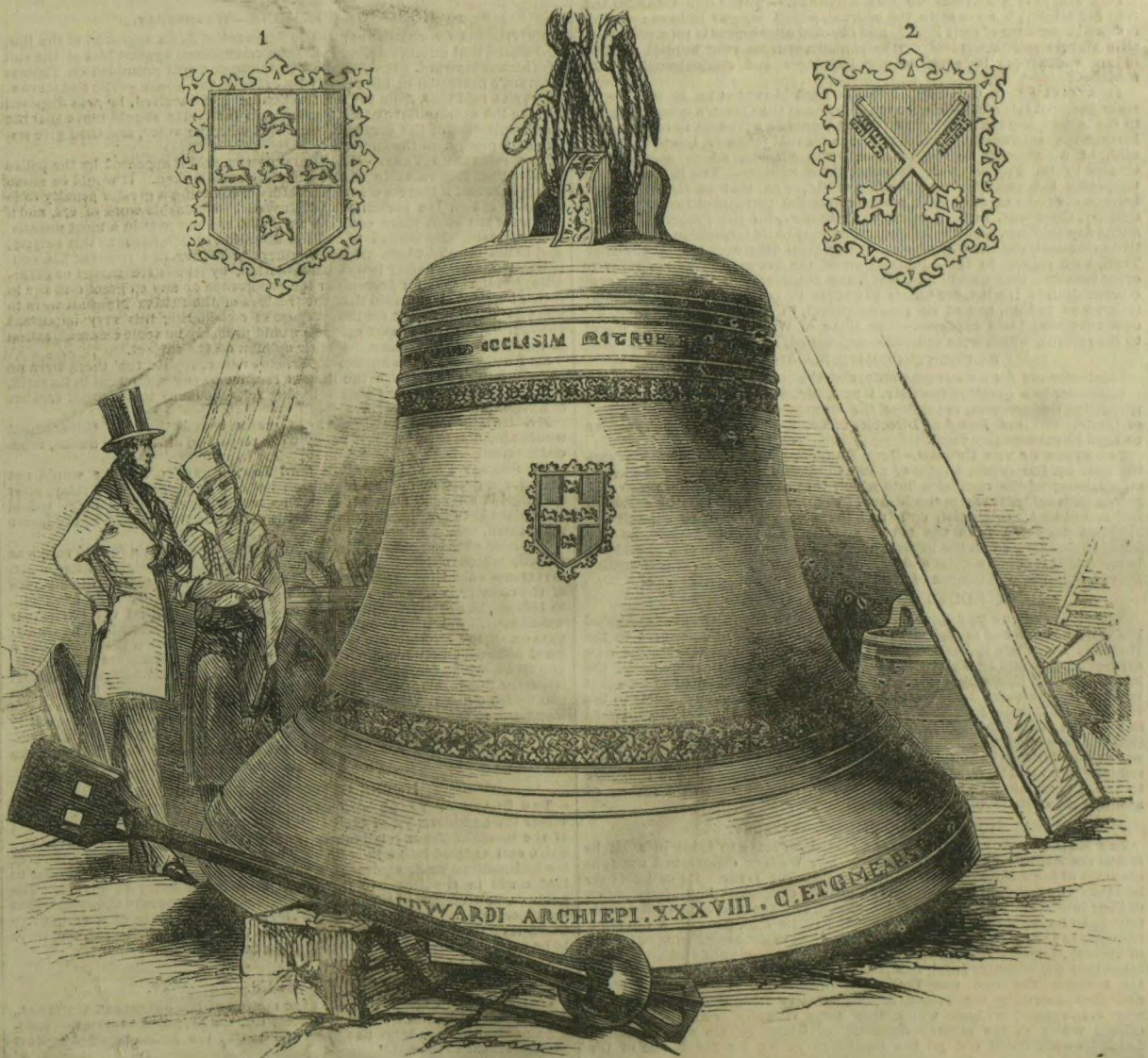
Under such circumstances, any great reduction of taxes is not to be expected; a modification of some of the import duties, especially those where it will be perfectly safe—the unproductive ones—may be granted. But a continuance of the Income-tax for another limited period will be the condition of the boon. Abolish more, and the Income-tax will be made perpetual.

As yet this is not the case; that it should be renewed for another fixed term surprises no one, for everybody expected it, and the act of the Queen's Minister is but a carrying out of the intimation conveyed in the words of the Queen's Speech. The necessity for it has not ceased, and its success as a means of raising money is at once a great temptation to renew it, and a difficulty in the way of giving it up. It has succeeded but too perfectly, and we fear it will be long ere our Government will learn how to do without it.

But at the present juncture the people can insist on one thing which they have every right to demand, and that is, that a proper distinction be made between real property and the casual, uncertain, and fluctuating possession which is income only, and cannot be sold, transferred, or bequeathed. The most objectionable thing in the principle of Sir Robert Peel's measure, is the placing both on the same level, and forcing them each to contribute in the same proportion. To a Property-tax there can be but few objections; all the laws and the machinery of the State are kept up for its protection, and that it should pay towards the expenses of the Government in proportion to the benefit it derives from it, is only just. A tax on property has been called a war tax—for what reason, except that in England it was first imposed in a time of war, we can hardly see; its justice would seem to recommend it at any time. It is easily collected, and produces a larger amount in proportion to the expense of levying it than any other tax whatever. But the tax on Income is different in almost every point. It requires endless trouble and vexatious inquiries, and causes an enormous amount of falsehood and evasion, both among those who do pay it and those who do not. Giving far more vexation, it brings in a much less amount than the property-tax. It places on the same footing the poor clerk or professional man struggling along on a small and barely sufficient income, and the more fortunate individual with property to the amount of thousands in land or the funds. One may be made a beggar by the stroke of disease or calamity; the other, with the exertion of common prudence, is safe. One toils and wastes his life itself in his struggle for an income; the other sits still, and has it poured into his lap. One can sell his property, or leave it to his children after him; the other has not

even a life interest in what he earns; and if he is obliged to live up to his income, can lay by nothing, while at his death, all ceases with him. Among tradesmen, clerks, and the lower ranks of the professions, how many and many a tale of woe has not, on the death of the head of a family, far too painfully proved how great is the difference between property and income? Why, then, tax them the same—why make the weak and the strong carry an equal burden? It may be easily borne by the one, but it helps to crush the other to the earth.

Now is the time for action, and if the people exert themselves with anything like the spirit they show on occasions when there is far less at stake, they may procure a modification of the tax that will be something more equitable. Powerful as Sir Robert Peel is, a proposition made by him is but a plan to be confirmed or rejected by the House of Commons, and not the decree of a despot, to be received at once with a submissive "to hear is to obey." There is far too little independence in the Legislature, and too great a disposition to receive without dispute or examination what the Minister proposes. But this apathy may be quickened from without; this Parliament is verging to its natural dissolution, and there is no very distant prospect of having to meet the whole constituent body on the hustings. Here is the lever the people have in their hands, of power enough to move whole mountains of indifference, if it be properly applied. Now is the moment; what is proposed is not settled; a scheme propounded is not a statute enacted; let the people protest against so much of it as they think unjust, and they may save themselves the infliction; let them be passive or indifferent, and they must abide the consequences. They may grumble, but they will, at the same time, have to pay.



THE MONSTER BELL FOR YORK MINSTER.

THE MONSTER BELL FOR YORK MINSTER.
This bell, recently cast by Messrs. Mears, of Whitechapel, may be justly termed the King of Bells in England, exceeding as it does in weight, Tom of Oxford, by seven, and Tom of Lincoln, by five, tons.

The inhabitants of York and Yorkshire being desirous of furnishing the noble Minster with a bell equal in size and magnificence of tone to some of the continental bells; and being stimulated in that good spirit by the magnificent bequest of the late Dr. Beckwith of the peal of twelve bells, recently

cast, have subscribed the sum necessary for this great Bourdon. The Dean and Chapter have also, at an outlay of £2000 and upwards, restored and strengthened the south western tower for its reception at the Minster.

The height of the bell is eight feet, its diameter is eight feet four inches, and the thickness at the sounding bow is seven inches. The ornaments are suitable, and of a character and style similar to the details of the principal parts of the cathedral. The arms of the cathedral and city are on each side of the bell. It is intended to be swung with two wheels, one on each side of the axle; and its tone, when swinging, will be excessively grand and powerful. The foundry at which this bell has been produced has been the birth-place of the great bell of Montreal, Tom of Lincoln, and St. Paul's bell.

It is intended by the committee to exhibit the "Great Peter," as it is called, in London; and arrangements are making for the purpose, which will be duly notified to the public. The proceeds from such an exhibition are to be devoted to the purchase of a clock and quarter bells, to be placed in the same tower with the large bell.

The following additional details may be interesting:—The metal took 12 days to cool, from the 18th of January, when it was poured into the mould, to the 30th ult. The clapper is not yet put in, but this will weigh between three and four cwt.

The inscription is in Lombardic characters, as follows—Round the top:—

"In sanctæ et æternæ Trinitatis honorem
Pecunia sponte collata, Eboracensis
Fœderum curaverunt in usum
Ecclesiæ metrop. B. Petri, Ebor."

Round the rim:—

"Anno Salutis MDCCCXLV. Victoriæ, Regina VIII.
Edwardi Archiepi xxxviii.
C. et G. Mears, Londini, Fecerunt."

FOREIGN INTELLIGENCE.

FRANCE.

The Secret Service Money Bill, upon which another trial of the strength of the Guizot Cabinet will take place, was presented to the Chamber of Deputies on Monday by M. Duchatel, the Minister of the Interior.

The *Débats* and other Ministerial papers speak in a confident tone of the support of the bill by a large majority.

It is stated by the Paris papers that the Duke de Broglie will shortly repair to London to confer with Dr. Lushington upon the subject of the right of search. The *Constitutionnel* says:—"We have been assured that the question of the right of search will not be the only one examined by the plenipotentiaries, and that two other questions will occupy much more their attention, namely, the emancipation of the slaves in the French colonies, and the annexation of Texas."

The quantity of snow which fell in Paris on Monday, rendered it extremely difficult for carriages to proceed through the streets. A number of blacksmiths were to be seen during the day offering their services to prepare the shoes of the horses, which found it impossible to avoid falling in consequence of the frozen snow.

The French Government continue to display vigour in pursuit of the hordes of miscreants, murderers, and thieves, with which Paris is notoriously overrun. On Saturday last a considerable military force, placed under the direction of three commissaries of police, surrounded two public establishments on the Boulevard du Temple—the Café du Puy-de-Dôme, and the Caveau—the haunts of malefactors and receivers of stolen goods. Upwards of 200 individuals were arrested, and marched to the Prefecture of Police, in bands of twenty and thirty at a time.

In the Chamber of Peers on Monday, Count Daru gave notice of a proposition to repress the unlimited speculation which has for some length of time been carried on in railroad shares. It is intended that henceforward no subscription shall be opened for the construction of any railroad which has not been authorised by the Chambers. The *minimum* of the first deposit must amount to one-fifth of the price of each share, and any violation of this regulation to be punished by the application of the 419th article of the Penal Code.

The Chamber of Deputies have rejected M. St. Priest's proposition for a uniform rate of postage in France from the 1st January, 1845.

SPAIN.

It appears, by our accounts from Madrid, that the fever of Railway speculation has reached even to Spain. The Spanish Government has granted a concession of a line from Madrid to Cadiz to M. Emile Gandron, the representative of a French company. Branch lines to Toledo and Jerez are included in the grant, which is for 99 years. The capital necessary for this undertaking will be 480,000,000 reals, of which the Belgian Bank has taken one-third. The works will commence in about two months, and the line is to be completed in eighteen months. Mr. Kelly, on behalf of an English company, has obtained the approbation of her Majesty for a line from Madrid to Aranjuez, and has left for London to complete his arrangements.

Madrid has been thrown into a state of excitement, by the detection of a member of the Chamber of Deputies in the act of stealing plate at General Narvaez's ball. The Chamber has, by a majority of 105 to 18, voted the expulsion of M. Quintanella, the member for Seville, the person in question.

IMPERIAL PARLIAMENT.

HOUSE OF LORDS.—MONDAY.

HER MAJESTY'S ANSWER TO THE ADDRESS.—The Lord Chancellor read her Majesty's answer to the address, which was as follows:—"The renewed assurance of your loyalty and devoted attachment is received by me with sincere satisfaction. I derive confidence from your cordial support in my endeavours to promote the happiness and contentment of my subjects."

FINANCIAL STATE OF THE COUNTRY.—Lord MONTEAGLE, in moving for some financial returns, alluded to that portion of the Queen's speech relating to the subject, and gave his opinion that it would be advisable to continue the Income-tax temporarily. Had it not been for that measure, there would, he said, be a deficiency in the revenue. The surplus, which was entirely created by the Property-tax, exceeded three millions. But it was only a temporary tax, and the result, consequently, was, that so far from there being any excess or surplus of revenue over the permanent taxation of the country, there was, in fact, an actual deficiency, for the Property-tax produced five millions, and the deficiency previous to its imposition having been two millions, if the tax was repealed the original deficiency would still exist. Then, with regard to the circumstance of the tax as a means of relief to other taxation, that question involved the consideration of the permanent continuation of the tax, for unless the taxes to be repealed were so badly selected as to lead, and at no remote period, to an increased revenue, the deficiency would still continue.—The Duke of WELLINGTON did not object to the returns, which were ordered.—Adjourned.

HOUSE OF COMMONS.—MONDAY.

The house sat for a short time only, and the business was unimportant. In answer to a question from Mr. HUME, Mr. B. BARING declined, on the part of the Government, to produce the correspondence between the Board of Control and the Board of Directors of the East India Company, relative to Lord Ellenborough's recall.

THE STATE OF THE CHURCH.—Lord EBRINGTON presented a petition from the Rev. Dr. Carwithen, Rector of Stoke Climsland, in the diocese of Exeter, complaining of the confusion into which that diocese had been thrown by recent pastoral letters from the Bishop. Petitioner stated that he felt himself bound by his ordination oath and the canon law not to commit the slightest deviation from the rubric, and that, if he did so deviate, he was liable to prosecution on the information of any layman. He prayed that the house might procure a calm and temperate review of the Book of Common Prayer, Rubrics, and Canons of the Church of England.—Adjourned.

HOUSE OF LORDS.—TUESDAY.

THE BUSINESS OF THE HOUSE.—The Marquis of NORMANBY deprecated the system which had prevailed of introducing important measures to the House of Lords late in the session, and expressed a hope that some new arrangement would be made. The noble marquis asked in which house the most important bills would originate.—The Duke of WELLINGTON said that most of the measures referred to were such as could only originate in the House of Commons, but promised that the Government should bring forward in their Lordships' house such bills as could originate there at as early a period of the session as possible. The noble duke then said that no persons were more desirous than her Majesty's servants were that the inconvenience referred to should be remedied. A regular mode of proceeding in reference to the introduction and progress of bills in Parliament was a matter of absolute necessity.—Adjourned till Thursday.

HOUSE OF COMMONS.—TUESDAY.

THE RAILWAY ACT.—Mr. WALLACE moved for leave to bring in a bill to repeal the Railway Act of last session. Mr. Wallace condemned the proceedings of the Railway Committee of the Board of Trade. He said that no less than two hundred and forty-eight railway companies had given notice of their intention to come before Parliament, and the decisions of the committee, so far as they were made known, had, he said, gone in a direction contrary to the interests of the public. They were not sanctioning new lines of railway, but condemning them, thus depriving the public of all advantages they might derive from competition. Though he could not speak to the reasons, the fact was that they were discouraging competition, and thus depriving the people of this country of a free trade in rail way conveyance, without which they must virtually become the slaves of the whole of the railway directors of Great Britain and Ireland.—Lord HOWICK could not go the length of voting for the repeal of the bill of last year, but he agreed that the subject was one of the greatest importance, and that every means within the power of the Legislature should be taken to secure to the public cheapness and facility of railway transit. Lord Howick entered into the subject at considerable length, and alluded to the feverish speculations which had been lately carried on in railway shares. He had been credibly informed that gambling in shares was at present going on, not in London alone, but in Liverpool, Manchester, and

other places, to an extent that was absolutely frightful and demoralising to the country. (Hear, hear.) The noble lord insisted that regulations ought to be adopted in order to lower railway fares. It was clear, from the premiums now offered for shares, that the different companies could afford to execute their lines of railway, and to convey the public at cheaper rates. What was the fact? Suppose that a bill passed for the construction of a direct line of railway from London to York. The construction of that line would cost from five to six millions sterling. But the shares they knew had already risen in value from forty to fifty per cent. It was plain, therefore, that persons were to be found in this country who were willing to pay seven millions and a half for that which only cost in actual outlay five or six millions. Of course they calculated that, though the cost of the railway was only five millions, they would, from the rates of charges which they contemplated enforcing, derive such a profit as would reimburse them for the outlay of seven millions and a half, (hear, hear)—and of course it followed that they could afford a very large reduction of their fares if their profits were to be calculated upon the capital actually invested in the execution of the work. He was, therefore, clearly of opinion that they ought not to defer railway legislation—that whatever difficulties there might be in the way, however overwhelming they might be, still they must go on. Lord HOWICK suggested that Government should undertake a new survey of all the rail ways now projected, and which had already been surveyed by the Board of Trade.—Sir R. PEEL protested against any precipitate condemnation of the Rail way Board, which had been created under the sanction of the house, and which some gentlemen wanted nevertheless to abolish before it had made its first report to Parliament. That Board had been censured for publishing its decisions in the *Gazette*. So far from thinking their conduct in that respect censurable, he thought that after they had come to a decision they were bound to publish it. In the course of two or three days the report of the Board of Trade on the first class of railways would be published. That would enable the house to judge of the principles upon which they acted; and surely it would be advisable for hon. gentlemen to postpone their judgment till they had perused that report. He hoped that the house would not abandon the principles on which it had hitherto proceeded with regard to railway bills until they were convinced that those principles were erroneous. They had been told that 240 railway bills were to be presented to the house in the course of the present session; but he had no doubt that discussion would considerably diminish that number. The wisest course would be to appoint a committee to consider the subject, under the assumption that there would be an unusual number of such bills. An hon. friend of his had procured the assent of the house to a committee on private bills, which consisted of persons the most conversant with the conduct of private business. He hoped that committee would not apply itself in the first instance to the consideration of private bills generally, but would proceed to that of railway bills before all others, and would reflect on the manner in which the house should deal with the 150 such bills that were likely to come before it. The report of such committees, if the members would give continuous attendance, would have weight with the house; and, if so, the evil would not be of that magnitude as to induce them to despair of overcoming it. Supposing there were 200 such bills, why should they not sacrifice their time to the consideration of them? If they could not get members to serve spontaneously on such committees, they must adopt the principle adopted in election committees, and compel them to serve in some way or other. Sir R. PEEL, in conclusion, objected to Lord Howick's suggestion.—Mr. WAKLEY alluded to a report that Mr. W. O'Brien, the brother of a gentleman who had been secretary to Sir James Graham, and who is a member of the Railway Board, was stated to have made very considerable profits by certain early information which he had procured respecting the report on a branch line connected with the South-Eastern Railway. Statements of that kind ought not to go forth without being investigated.—Sir J. GRAHAM vindicated the conduct of his two relatives, the Messrs. O'Brien. Mr. Gladstone, without any application from him (Sir James Graham), had thought fit to appoint one of them, who had served him (Sir James) faithfully as his private secretary, to a situation in the Board of Trade. Mr. Gladstone had made it a condition with his relative, on giving him that appointment, that any connection which he might have with any railway speculation should be dropped, and that any shares he might possess should be sold forthwith. He (Sir James) was informed that his relative had complied with this condition, and had sold his shares in October last. The name of O'Brien appeared, however, in the list of names appended to one of the schemes now before the house, because an act of Parliament required that the original holder of shares should sign the deed of partnership, although he had transferred his scrip. He (Sir James) had afterwards taken Mr. O'Brien's brother as his private secretary; but, as large emoluments were offered to that gentleman to undertake the management of their line by one of the railway companies, he (Sir James) determined not to stand in the way of his permanent employment on the railway. He contended that, neither directly nor indirectly, had his relative had any communication with the Board of Trade on the subject of their report. Sir James Graham added, in regard to himself, that he had never held a railway share in his life.—Mr. WALLACE ultimately withdrew his motion.

THE LAW OF SETTLEMENT.—Sir JAMES GRAHAM moved for leave to bring in a bill to consolidate and amend the laws relating to parochial settlement and the removal of the poor. This bill had been circulated during the recess, and the alterations he now proposed to make in it were principally the giving up of a birth settlement, acting retrospectively, and also the right of irremovability after a five years' residence. He also proposed to work the most important change of substituting union for parochial settlements, thereby reducing the number of restrictions from 14,500, the number of parishes, to 620, the number of unions.—After a short discussion leave was given to bring in the bill.

The house adjourned at a quarter past twelve.

HOUSE OF COMMONS.—WEDNESDAY.

PRIVILEGES OF THE HOUSE.—The Sergeant at Arms appeared at the Bar, and stated that another act had been commenced against him at the suit of Thomas Howard. It was one of trespass, and was grounded on Thomas Howard's detention in his custody by order of the house.—The SOLICITOR-GENERAL said that, from the information he had received, he was disposed to take the same course as that adopted in 1843. He should move that the communication of the Sergeant be printed with the votes, and then give notice of a motion on the subject.

THE PORTLAND VASE.—Mr. CHRISTOPHER said it appeared by the police reports that this valuable work had lately been broken. It would be much to be regretted if there were no possibility of inflicting a greater penalty than a fine of £5 on the person who destroyed this valuable work of art, and if this were the case, there could be no doubt the law was in a most unsatisfactory state. He wished to call the attention of Ministers to this subject, and to ask his right hon. friend whether the matter had received his consideration, and whether it was his intention, by legislative means or otherwise, to take steps for preventing the occurrence of any so great outrage in future?—Sir R. PEEL said that the trustees of the British Museum were to meet on Saturday next for the purpose of considering this very important subject. The result of that meeting would probably be some communication to her Majesty's government of their opinion on the subject.

Sir ROBERT PEEL, in answer to Mr. BOUVIER, replied that there were no negotiations pending with the Brazils relative to any alteration in its tariff, those at present under discussion having reference only to the usual treaties of navigation and commerce.

Mr. RICARDO and Mr. MILNER GIBSON hoped that the Government would abandon their fruitless policy with respect to differential duties, especially on sugar.

Sir ROBERT PEEL, in reply to Lord JOHN RUSSELL, said he would not press for a decision on the resolution he had to propose on Friday, after making his financial statement; but he trusted that no long delay would take place between the statement of his plans and the decision of the house upon them.

The house having resolved into a Committee of Supply, a formal vote was moved, which elicited some conversation upon financial matters.—Mr. WILLIAMS submitted that, from the present abundant state of the finances of the country, a reduction upon the interest of Exchequer Bills from 14d. to 12d. might be made. He would venture to suggest that the Exchequer would benefit much by this reduction in the rate of interest.—The CHANCELLOR OF THE EXCHEQUER said, it should not be forgotten that there was a great difference between sums lent for short periods at small rates of interest, and stock, which might be considered as of a more permanent character. Since the honourable gentleman had last spoken on the subject, the premium had varied eight, nine, and ten shillings; and he was not, therefore, to argue that because the premium was now of a very high amount, it necessarily followed that the interest on Exchequer bills could be reduced. The resolution, which was for a vote of £18,404,500 Exchequer Bills having been agreed to, the house adjourned, having sat an hour and a half only.

HOUSE OF LORDS.—THURSDAY.

THE BOARD OF TRADE AND THE RAILWAYS.—Lord DALHOUSIE brought under the consideration of the house the report of the Railway Department of the Board of Trade relative to the South Western Railway schemes. The noble earl entered into a long defence of the Railway Board, and answered the insinuations made against it, but as his statement was very similar to that made in the House of Commons, it is unnecessary to give it. The noble earl also repeated the declaration given in the House of Commons, that the reports issued by the board were never intended to be of a conclusive character; they were merely intended to be laid before Parliament, and there to be used as it in its wisdom might think fit and proper.

The house rose at an early hour.

HOUSE OF COMMONS.—THURSDAY.

THE PRIVILEGE QUESTION.—On the motion of the SOLICITOR GENERAL, it was agreed "That Sir William Gosset, Kt., the Sergeant at Arms, attending this house, have leave to appear and defend the action brought against him by Thomas Howard."

STATE OF THE NAVY.—Sir C. NAPIER moved for a Select Committee to inquire into the manner in which the money vested since 1835, for the construction of ships, had been expended, and if the ships constructed are an improvement of the old "system." The gallant member made a searching examination into the state of the naval department, criticised various vessels, and impugned the general system pursued at the Admiralty.—A lengthened debate followed, in which the principal speakers were, Sir G.

Cockburn, Mr. C. Wood, Mr. Corry, Captain Pechell, and Mr. Wakley.—The Government opposed the return, and on a division there were 32 votes for the motion, and 93 against it; majority against it, 61.

GREENWICH HOSPITAL.—Mr. C. HOPE moved for leave to bring in two bills, one to enable the Commissioners of the Hospital to improve certain property in Greenwich, and the other to enable them to lease certain coal mines and construct a private tram road near Berwick-on-Tweed. The last measure caused some opposition, but leave was finally given to bring in the bills.

RAILWAYS.—In Committee on the Railway Clauses Consolidation Bill, Mr. CORRY moved the insertion of a clause prohibiting the construction of any line of railway along the banks of the sea, without leave of the Lords of the Admiralty. The consideration of the clause was finally postponed till Monday next.

The house adjourned at half past eleven.

HOUSE OF LORDS.—FRIDAY.

The Lord Chancellor took his seat on the woolsack at five o'clock.

The Marquis of NORMANBY presented a petition in favour of the Health of Towns Commission, and inquired if the Government had any intentions to bring in a measure to ameliorate the present evils, and also to do away with burial clubs.

The Duke of BUCKLEIGH replied that the Government had it under consideration, and would probably propose some measure attaining the advantages proposed by the noble marquis.

After a few words from Lord Campbell, the Marquis of NORMANBY gave notice that he should move, on a future day, for a return of the order appointing the Deputy-Inspector of Ireland, in the room of the late Mayor of Galway.

The house then adjourned till Monday.

HOUSE OF COMMONS.—FRIDAY.

After the presentation of several petitions, Mr. T. DUNCOMBE gave notice that on Tuesday next he should submit a motion to the house on the subject of the Post-office. He should move for a select committee to inquire into the manner in which the business of the Post-office was conducted, and he should also move that the Report of the Secret Committee of last year be referred to that Committee.

Colonel SIBTHORP gave notice, that after Easter he should take the sense of the house on the subject of the propriety of reducing the duties payable on Fire Insurances.

COMMERCIAL TREATY WITH TURKEY.—Dr. BOWRING inquired of Sir R. Peel whether any effective measures had been taken to place British subjects of her Majesty, trading to the Levant, on a level with other subjects trading to that part of the world, in accordance with the terms of the commercial treaty concluded between this country and the Ottoman Empire.—Sir R. PEEL expressed his dissatisfaction at the manner in which the treaty had been carried out, and stated that negotiations were pending on the subject.

ELECTION COMMITTEES.—The following hon. members were sworn in to serve on Election Committees:—Lord Sandon, The O'Conor Don, Sir George Grey, Lord G. Somerset, Mr. Wilson Patten, and Mr. Locke.

THE OREGON TERRITORY.—Sir R. PEEL moved the order of the day for a Committee of Ways and Means.—On the question that the order of the day be read, Mr. ROEBUCK wished to give notice that he should take the earliest opportunity of asking the right hon. gentleman opposite when he would lay on the table of the house the correspondence between the American Government and our representative there on the subject of the Oregon territory.

THE BUDGET.

The Order of the Day for going into Committee of Ways and Means was then read, and the chair was taken by Mr. Greene.

Sir ROBERT PEEL then rose, and after remarking upon the importance and anxiety attending the subject he was about to discuss, continued:—I will, in the first instance, begin by referring to that estimate of finance and expenditure of the country which was taken by my right hon. friend the Chancellor of the Exchequer, when he last brought the subject under the consideration of the house. My right hon. friend, speaking at the latter end of April, 1844, calculated that the revenue for the current year—that is, the year ending the 5th April, 1845—would amount to the sum of £51,790,000, and the expenditure at £48,643,000, leaving an estimated surplus of £3,147,000. That calculation, however, was disturbed on the one hand by an estimated reduction of taxes to the amount of £400,000. I allude to the wool duties and to the duty on glass, which were removed at a subsequent period of the session, but on the other hand credit was taken, or a demand was made, for £400,000, on account of the China expenditure, which vote it is not necessary to refer to, as that will not affect the calculation, because there is a saving on the one hand balancing the reduction on the other. My right hon. friend stated at the same time, that in consequence of the postponement of the payment of £700,000 the surplus would be reduced, and that the real surplus would be £2,373,000. That estimated surplus was, in point of fact, in making the account of the 5th of January last, very considerably exceeded. It will appear by reference to the document of the state of finance and expenditure of the 5th of January last there was a surplus of £3,357,000. Instead of £51,790,000, the sum calculated upon by my right hon. friend, the amount of net receipts of revenue on the 5th July last, was £54,003,000. The increase of revenue arose chiefly from the increase of receipts from the Customs. Instead of £21,500,000 of Customs revenue, as estimated by my right hon. friend, the actual receipt was, on the 5th of January, £22,500,000. The Excise, which was taken by my right hon. friend, at £13,000,000, produced on that day, £13,308,000. There was some money received under the treaty with China, amounting to £385,000, for which my right hon. friend had not taken credit, but the result was, on the 5th of January last, an income of £54,000,000, instead of the estimated income of £51,790,000. The expenditure on the 5th of January, 1845, had been, on account of Debt and Consolidated Fund, £23,862,000, and on account of the payment then made for the army and navy and other public services, £17,784,000, making a total expenditure of £50,646,000, and leaving a surplus, [as it appears on that account, amounting to £3,357,000.—(Hear, hear, and cheers.)] At the same time, although that is the actual account, as appears on the 5th of January, yet the house will be naturally anxious to have an estimate of the account, as it will probably appear on the 5th of April next. For the period of which I am speaking, I am of course bound, in a matter of this kind, to give an estimate, rather than a positive statement, but certainly I have every reason to apprehend that the balance, comparing the actual receipts of revenue within the year on the 5th of April next, with the expenditure, will amount to a sum of above £5,000,000 for the year. I do not wish, however, to deal to-night with the intricacies of accounts. I wish to state to the house what is our real practical position with respect to finance severed from all questions of annual account; and I think that I am justified in stating that such has been the improvement of the revenue, apart from the property tax, that the surplus which I have stated—viz., a surplus of at least £5,000,000—will be the surplus of the revenue of this year as compared with the last. Of course a portion, and a very considerable portion, of the revenue is derived from the income-tax, which has produced £5,190,000. If it had not been for the receipt of the amounts from various casual sources, and for the receipt on account of the income-tax, the revenue, which in that case would be derived from ordinary permanent sources, would not quite equal the expenditure. The best course which I can now take, is to submit to the house the estimate which has been prepared by my right honourable friend and myself, of the probable receipt of revenue in the next year. I have no right to assume that this house will sanction the continuance of the income-tax; and, therefore, it will be better that I should, in the first place, estimate the revenue, supposing the house should determine not to continue the income-tax. We are disposed to estimate the receipt from the Customs in the year ending the 5th of April, 1846.—I will lay before you the best estimate I can form of the probable receipt up to the 5th of April next year, and I am now going to address myself to the prospects of the coming year—that year which will terminate on the 5th of April, 1846, as I before stated—the receipt from the Customs in this year, on the 5th of April, may be taken at £22,500,000. There has been a very large receipt on account of the duty on the import of foreign corn; but independently of that, the revenue from the customs has been very large. The experience of past years would induce us not to calculate upon a succession of one productive year after another. Looking, therefore, to the probability that the corn duties of the next year would not be equal to what they were last year, which was very productive in the Customs' revenue, I am not inclined to take the estimate of the Customs' revenue for the next year at more than £22,000,000; and then the Excise revenue, which was estimated at £13,000,000 for the past year, reached £13,300,000; and, therefore, I feel warranted in estimating that branch of revenue for the next at thirteen millions and a half, because for some time there has been a progressive increase in the Excise revenue; and we find that the Excise revenue always recovers slowly from depression. I therefore feel that I am warranted in estimating the Excise revenue for the year ending the 5th of April, 1846, at £13,500,000. The stamp duties produced in the last year £7,100,000; and the taxes—that is to say, the land tax and the assessed taxes—produced £4,200,000. Then, with respect to the Post-office, from the increase in the revenue of that department since last year, and the facilities which have recently been made for the increase of foreign correspondence—I feel warranted in estimating the revenue of the Post office for the next year at £7,000,000, for the actual produce of last year was £6,910,000. (Loud cheers from the Opposition benches.) The Crown lands produced £1,500,000; and I will take them at that estimate. As to the miscellaneous sources of revenue, I am inclined to take them at nearly the same amount which they actually produced during the past year—that is £250,000. Now I have been here speaking of the ordinary permanent sources of revenue, and the net amount of my estimate on these is £47,900,000. Besides, I calculate that during the coming year we shall receive £600,000 on account of China. So that, even if the house should refuse its sanction to the continuance of the income-tax, I think that I should be entitled to take credit for the half-year's produce of that tax—viz., for £2,600,000, which will come into the receipts of the year ending the 5th of April, 1846. Therefore, with this £2,600,000, and

£600,000 on the account of China, I am warranted upon calculating a clear revenue of £51,100,000, even if the house should refuse to continue the income-tax. On the 5th of April, 1846, the charge for debt will be funded and unfunded, £28,450,000; the charge on the Consolidated Fund, £2,400,000, making a total of £30,850,000 on account of the debt. The estimated debt voted last year amounted to £17,700,000; the total charge, therefore, assuming the present system to remain unaltered, would be £48,557,000. Deduct that sum from the total revenue, that is £48,557,000 from £51,100,000, still the surplus on the 5th of April, 1846, will be £2,543,000. If you were to deduct from the revenue of next year the receipt of the income-tax and the casual and temporary receipt from Chinese money, and assume that to be the amount of revenue on the following year, ending the 5th of April, 1847, and taking the expenditure to be the same, in that case there would be a small deficiency of revenue as compared with the preceding year. The question is, whether or not we are justified in a demand for an increased expenditure on account of the public expenditure, and I feel that it is but right to satisfy the house what our intentions are in making this demand. I do not hesitate to admit that no financial prosperity—no surplus revenue—relieves the Government from the paramount obligation of considering whether it is consistent for the public interest, that a saving can be made in the public expenditure. (Hear, hear.) I feel that there is the same stringent obligation upon her Majesty's Government to avoid increased expenditure, when there is a surplus of five millions in the Treasury, as when there is no surplus at all. (Hear, hear.) At the same time, permit me to say that I am greatly afraid that the public are under a very erroneous conception with regard to what was really necessary for the public expenditure, what that public expenditure actually was, and the means by which it could be safely reduced. It is generally supposed that all portions of the public expenditure which does not consist of payments for the continuance of the several public departments, is unnecessary and useless, but such is not the case. If we take the amount of the revenue for the past year, which was £48,243,000, it will be found to consist of the following charges:—£28,450,000 on account of payments toward the public debt. The sum paid to the naval and military half-pay amounted to £4,991,000. The charges fixed on as necessary for the Consolidated Fund were £1,678,000. In these charges I include the provision necessary for defraying the expenditure of the judicial establishment. (Hear, hear.) There are, besides, included in the whole amount of the sum that I have stated, as that which will be required for the public services this year, not only the whole sum levied as public taxation, but various other sums. The sum of £35,900,000, required for the purposes I have already mentioned, if deducted from the £48,000,000, the amount of the total sum required for the public expenditure, will leave a sum of about £13,000,000 for the public service, in respect of which, it is supposed, some reduction may be made. (Hear, hear.) After deducting the amount due to the public creditor, what then remains to be disposed of to meet the expenditure of the Executive Government? The total amount of that would not exceed £12,933,000. Among the other charges which have received the attention of Parliament, is the charge for the Civil List. And here I may be permitted to say, that any Executive Government that would have a due regard to the exercise of a wise and judicious economy, would not hesitate to follow the example which has been set them by the control exercised over her own expenditure by the Sovereign. A settlement was made of the Civil List on her accession to the throne. On the occasion of her marriage no addition was made to that Civil List. (Cheers.) During the year three powerful sovereigns have visited this country, but I am not required, on the part of her Majesty, to press for the extra expenditure of one single shilling—(immense cheers)—on account of these unforeseen causes of increased expenditure. Now, with regard to the charges for the collection of the revenue, it should be borne in mind that the extent of the revenue establishment is not merely to secure an efficient collection of the money due to the state, but that it is of the utmost importance that every facility should be given for the transaction of commercial business. It is our duty to reduce those establishments, as far as it is consistent with public convenience. I do not vindicate the retention of a single useless officer. But it would be a delusion and a fallacy to expect that you can generally reduce the public burdens by any diminution of the salaries of the officials employed. At the same time it may be said that those great public establishments for which a vote is taken every year—such as the army, the navy, and the ordnance of the country—may admit of some reductions. I, first of all, will state the estimate we propose for the expenditure on account of the army. Now it is impossible to determine whether that expense is justifiable or not, without adverting to the extent of the colonial empire of this country. The main expense on account of the army is the extent of your colonial possessions. It may be said it is not our advantage to defend our colonial empire, but I deal with the fact that you have colonies—that you must provide a competent force for each, and that having a competent force you must have some supply for the relief of them. Sir, I should be unwilling—though I know our colonies are expensive—to give up that policy which led to the foundation in different parts of the globe of dependencies animated by the spirit of Englishmen, and speaking the English language. For the service of these forty-five colonies you have an infantry force of 112 battalions, amounting to 92,000 rank and file. After referring to the necessity for shortening the period of regiments abroad, Sir R. Peel continued. We propose no increase in our military establishments, but at the same time, we do not think it would be desirable to recommend to the house to diminish the military force of this country. Consequently, we propose that the vote for the army estimates in the present year shall be a vote of £6,600,000, the amount of last year's estimate. I now proceed to call the attention of the house to the state of the navy, and the demand we shall feel it our duty to submit to the house for an increase in the estimate for it. We shall propose, in the course of the present year, an increase in the number of men serving in the navy, of about 2,500 more than those that are now actually employed, and of about 4,000 more men than those voted last year, on the grounds of our extended colonial empire, and the new commercial interests connected with it. Within the last few years three great naval stations have grown up. There is the coast of Africa, the Pacific, and the China seas. Not, indeed, that an increase is wanted for any purpose of war or oppression, but our commerce is greatly extending on the west coast of South America, and it is impossible to deny that the presence of a British vessel has a great effect in maintaining relations of peace. (Hear, hear.) I am sure that upon those three stations alone there has been an increase in the men employed at such a distance from this country of not less than 6000 men. You are to observe, too, that the very dispersion of your naval force has an effect like that produced by the dispersion of the army. The necessity of having your naval force dispersed over the habitable globe, does, in fact, diminish the efficiency of the naval complement at home. (Hear, hear.) We propose, therefore, with perfect confidence in the justice of the requisition, to increase the naval force of the present year to four thousand men. The expense caused by that increase will be about £184,000. Last year this house sanctioned a vote for two basins for the construction and repair of steam-vessels—one at Portsmouth, and another at Deptford. I shall therefore propose this year to take a vote for proceeding with the formation of those basins which the house sanctioned last year. The vote I propose to ask for is £187,000. I shall also take a vote for the purpose of enabling us to maintain the steam navy in a respectable condition suited to a peace establishment. Now, on account of the naval service, and of the ordnance connected with the navy, there will be an increase in the estimates of nearly one million. (Considerable sensation, much murmuring, and whispers in all parts of the house.) The works connected with the ordnance department have not been recently pursued with sufficient vigour, and we must, at all events, keep those fortifications and works which exist in an ordinary state of repair. The estimate I now present of the total expenditure of the present year is as follows:—The charge for the Debt, £28,395,000, the charge for the Consolidated Fund, £2,400,000, making a total of £30,795,000. The vote of supply for the army, £6,678,000, for the navy, £6,930,000, for the ordnance, £2,142,000, for the miscellaneous estimates, £3,200,000 being together, £18,995,000, and added to the charge for the debt of the Consolidated Fund, £49,695,000, for the revenue of next year I will take £51,100,000. The charges for the present year, £49,690,000. And even with this increased expenditure, there would be a surplus on the 5th of April, 1846, of between one and two millions. I have thus attempted to lay before the house the present financial condition of the country, and estimated the revenue to the 5th of April next, and for the year ending the 5th of April, 1846; and I have also laid before the house what amount of expenditure her Majesty's Government, with a provident care for the public interests, shall feel it their duty to recommend to the house. The next question that arises is—and it is a most important one—in what manner this increase of expenditure is to be provided for? We are now induced to propose a continuance of the property-tax for a further period, and before I am led to ask the assent of this house, or any gentleman in this house, to that proposal, I feel it is absolutely necessary that I should explain, as I shall now proceed to do, what are the views of her Majesty's Government with respect to the appropriation of the surplus revenue, which will be placed at their disposal, after fully providing for every exigency of the public service. I know well, as the noble lord opposite stated the other night, that it is impossible to give an opinion upon the question, abstractedly, can the property-tax be continued or not, without knowing what are the measures in respect of relief from taxation, which would follow as a consequence of its continued imposition. Let me assume for the present that the house has granted the continuance of the property-tax. I will then give a short estimate of the revenue arising from it, together with other sources. Suppose the property-tax to be continued, the estimate of the revenue for the next year on the 5th of April, 1846, aided by the £3,200,000 of the property-tax, will be £53,700,000, and as long as the other sources of the revenue remain equally productive, and as long as the property-tax is continued, £53,700,000, subject to a reduction of £600,000, will be the amount of the revenue. This £53,100,000 is the amount received as China money; it will be received for one year more, but for the purpose of calculating the revenue, I had better strike it out altogether. The revenue for the year, then, on the 5th of April, 1846, will be £53,100,000. The charge for the debt, and on account of the different branches of the public service will be £49,690,000; so that there would be left, as long as the income-tax should be continued, and deducting the Chinese money, a net revenue of £3,409,000. That is the surplus that will remain if the house should

acquiesce in the proposal which I shall make to increase the expenditure on the navy, and if they shall also determine that the income-tax shall be continued. Now it is a most important matter for consideration, in what mode that surplus, or any part of that surplus, shall be employed for the relief of taxation. What are the inducements in the way of the increased efficiency of the public service, and of the diminution of taxation, which I hold out to the House of Commons as a motive to induce them to consent to the continuance of the income-tax? I should not propose to the house the continuance of the income-tax unless I had the strongest presumption, that it will be competent to the House of Commons, by continuing the income-tax, to make such arrangements with respect to general taxation as shall materially add to the comforts even of those who shall be called on to contribute to the income-tax. (Hear, hear.) When the question is, having a considerable surplus, to determine how that surplus can be most efficiently employed, the question becomes one worthy of the most important and serious consideration. We do not propose to maintain any material surplus of revenue over expenditure, confident that, whatever may happen, this house is determined to maintain the public credit. (Loud cheers.) We have determined to recommend extensive reductions in those taxes which, in our opinion, press more onerously on the community than the income-tax. I first propose to submit to the consideration of the house, what are the views of her Majesty's Government in respect to a reduction upon the duty on sugar. (Loud cries of "Hear, hear," from both sides of the house.) The house will recollect that upon this subject last year, an arrangement of a temporary character was made, by which sugar, the produce of settlers who used free labour, was admitted into competition with sugar, the produce of foreign free labour. The amount of a discriminating duty proposed, by which to admit foreign sugar, the produce of free labour, was 10s. 6d.; and her Majesty's Government now propose to admit to general competition sugar upon the terms to which allusion was made last session. (Hear, hear.) We also propose the admission to competition of sugar, the produce of free labour in our colonies, upon the same terms as sugar, the produce of free labour in those foreign countries with which we now have what are called those "reciprocity treaties" that have heretofore been made. (Hear, hear, and laughter.) The discriminating duty proposed to be established last session was, on free-labour British plantation sugar, 24s., and 5 per cent., and that upon free-labour foreign sugar, 34s. and 3 per cent.; which would produce, upon the former, a total amount of duty of 25s. 3d., and on the latter of 35s. 9d. But, in the reductions proposed last year, it was proposed to establish a higher discriminating rate of duty on free-labour foreign sugar than we conceived bore a fair proportion to colonial free-labour sugar. Therefore her Majesty's Government came to the conclusion that the circumstances under which the foreign countries producing sugar by free labour, and those of the colonies, were not such as would render such alteration expedient. We stated at the same time that a classification, if it were possible, which would apply to our own sugar as well as foreign sugar, might be well worthy of consideration. We propose, therefore, with regard to all sugars, except the produce of our own colonies, to make this reduction. In respect of brown Muscovado sugar, which is now subject to a duty of 25s. 3d., we propose to make a reduction of 11s. 3d., and to reduce the duty to 14s. (Hear, hear, from the Opposition.) With regard to Muscovado sugar, that reduced duty will apply to all British plantation sugar—to sugar the produce of the Mauritius—to sugar, the produce of our West Indian Colonies; and with regard to the produce of those districts in British India, with regard to which a different rule now applies, we propose, in the case of those districts, to retain the same relative proportionate duty, and that duty shall be 18s. 8d. This is applicable to those countries of India which are permitted to import sugar. We propose that the amount of protective duty shall not exceed 9s. 4d., and the duty on free labour sugar will, therefore, be 23s. 4d. Of course, in countries with whom existing treaties are in force, we cannot deprive them of that which is their right. With regard to white, or clayed sugar, or sugar which by some process is made equal to clayed sugar, we propose that the duty on British Plantation East India Sugar shall be reduced from 25s. 3d. to 16s. 4d., and that the duty on sugar imported from India, or those parts of India from which sugar may be imported, shall be 21s. 9d., and that the duty on free labour foreign sugar—that is clayed—shall be 28s., thus retaining the whole amount of discriminating duty which last year was 10s. 6d., but applying it in a different manner, giving 9s. 4d. protection on Muscovado sugar, and increasing the protection to 11s. 4d. on white sugar. The amount of discriminating duty would remain the same as it was last year. The duty on molasses we propose to preserve in the same proportion. We propose on refined sugar that it should be imported at a duty of 14s. instead of 18s. 8d., and that double refined sugar should be imported under a duty of 21s., the 14s. including the 5 per cent. We consider that the effect of the reduction upon sugar will be, on the whole, a reduction of duty, so far as duty is connected with price, amounting to 14d. per lb., or not quite so much as 14d. But if you add other charges that accompany a high rate of duty, we think the full effect of the reduction of the duty will not be much short of 14d. per lb.—(Cheers.) We propose to adopt, as a general rule, the abolition of export duties on all articles of this nature, and from the application of that rule we do not propose to except coal for consumption. (Hear, hear, and cheers from the Opposition.) I am bound to say, also, that the revenue derived from coal has not equalled our expectations. We calculated upon an amount of revenue, after the reduction, of about £160,000, whereas the net revenue received in the last year has not exceeded 120,000. I do not think that there could be a greater argument against monopoly than the combination amongst the proprietors of coal mines. (Hear, hear.) I trust, therefore, that this voluntary abandonment by the Government of the tax which has been so much complained of by these proprietors will be met by them in a corresponding spirit. We have arrived at the opinion that it would be desirable—retaining the power of examination—retaining the power of ascertaining the quantity and weight—we think, in making a great reform of this kind in the rest of the Customs' duties, it would be better to abolish duties altogether than to maintain them. (Loud cries of "Hear, hear," from the Opposition benches.) Retaining a small portion for the purpose of ensuring vigilance on the part of the Custom-house officers in ascertaining the weight and quantity seems desirable. (Hear, hear.) Upon the whole, not being very confident of the correctness of our calculations, we do feel it our duty to advise the house to try the experiment which we made last year with respect to foreign wool, and to admit those articles to which I shall presently refer without any duty. The articles on which we propose to abolish the duties will be those generally which are the raw materials of our manufactures. The total number of articles that will be absolutely swept away from the tariff will be no less than 430. These will include those fibrous materials, such as silk, hemp, and flax, which would be admitted at a nominal duty; yarns twisted, of different kinds, I propose also to abolish the duty on furniture-making. A great demand is growing up in this country for our cabinet-making. (Laughter.)—which it was highly advisable to encourage. (Laughter.) The amount of duty at present levied on this article is very low, and we think the same rule may be applied to it. On animal and vegetable manures the duty will be entirely abolished. We propose to remove the duty on ores, and minerals, with the exception of copper ore, with respect to which an arrangement was made in 1842, which had worked exceedingly well. The duties on iron and zinc in the first stages of manufacture would be abolished, and on all dye-stuffs and on drugs universally, with the exception of some that were very obnoxious. There are some other articles with respect to which, on other considerations, this total removal of duty will not take place. I do not propose materially to interfere with the general principles which we have applied to the timber duties. With regard to the great article of foreign timber, there has been recently a large increase in the import of Baltic timber—that import is increasing, and, I confidently hope, that, eventually, the increase will be found to be not far short of what I had estimated it at. The amount received for timber duties during the course of the last year is not far short of £950,000. There is one particular article, in relation to the timber duties, which rests on special grounds, and which takes it out of the general category of the timber duties—I mean the article of staves. I think the coopers have made out a case of peculiar hardship, entitling them to an exemption from duty on an article, which, in point of fact, should be considered as an article of raw material.

Mr. LABOUCHERE.—Do you remove the duty altogether?
Mr. ROBERT PEEL.—Yes, we take it off altogether. It amounts to £32,000. I think the loss on these articles will be £320,000. I now come to that article, which is the most important to the prosperity of the country. I come now to cotton-wool.—(Hear, hear)—and the duty upon it. The present duty on cotton-wool is, so far as the revenue is concerned, 5-16ths of a penny a pound. That duty is applicable to the whole amount of cotton-wool imported, and is about one-fifth of the total amount, and is only available for the purpose of manufactures. Of course, in respect of the manufactured cotton of the United States, we labour already under great disadvantage, from the ready access which the people of that country possess to the raw material, and they are competitors of ours in all the coarser descriptions of cotton. Therefore, we conceive that to repeal the duty upon this article, and abolish it altogether, will be followed by the very best results.—(Cheers.) The estimated loss which the revenue will sustain by the abolition of this tax—taking into account the amount of the revenue received upon it last year, will not be less than £680,000. (Hear, hear, hear.) Her Majesty's Government did not intend to recommend to the house any further alterations in the duties upon any other articles of this description. The particular branch of duty I am now referring to, though the attention of the Government may not have strictly been called to it, I will undertake, before I sit down, to demonstrate, is one more entitled to reduction than many of the objects I have hitherto adverted to. (Cheers and laughter.) The duty to which I refer is the duty on the free transfer of property, or rather what is called the auction duty. (Hear, and cheers.) This auction duty is a duty which is leviable on each part of the United Kingdom. The present Commissioners of Excise report, d. there years since, to the Treasury, that with the auction duty there was more trouble, and more intricate questions arose on account of attempts at evasion, and questions about exemption—there was more trouble with respect to this auction duty than the whole of the excise revenue remaining. There is no duty, I think, which is so objectionable in principle as a duty on the transfer of property. Every auctioneer is, under the existing law, compelled to take out a license.

Now I propose, instead of the principle of requiring separate licenses, to enable auctioneers to dispose of every description of property, by taking out one license—I propose to fix the amount of that license at £15—thus enabling the auctioneers who take it out to deal in every description of property. I think it is probable that the number of auctioneers will be increased by the reduction of the duty. With respect to the article of glass, I must say that it is one which has especially occupied my attention. There is no Excise duty on the manufacture of glass in France, in Belgium, or in Bohemia. And in Bohemia the manufacture of glass was brought to the very highest state of perfection. We have particular facilities in this country for the manufacture of glass, we have a great command of labour and of coal, and we should be able not only to enter into competition with foreign countries, but we should be able to beat them. What is the fact? That there being now no duty on glass in Belgium, Bohemia, and France, there is no necessity for interfering with the process of manufacture. What has taken place in this country? A great import of foreign glass into the bonded warehouses of this country, and that foreign glass thus brought into bonded warehouses is afterwards exported, being liable to no duty; and after all his the exporters beat us, not only in foreign countries, but even in our own colonies. If we permit this article to be manufactured duty free, it is very hard to foresee to what perfection the manufacture of that beautiful fabric may be brought, considering how much it admitted of the application of capital and skill. I believe that this country may supply almost all the world with glass, or at least enter into active competition with other countries for supplying it. Now a case has been made out for the remission of the window duty. But take the case of glass, and see what a much greater effect the reduction of the duty on glass will have on the comfort of the labouring classes than a reduction of the window-duty. It is estimated that in Great Britain there are 3,500,000 houses; of these not more than 500,000 are charged with the window-duty; therefore, there are 3,000,000 of houses which require glass to be used in them, and which, by the removal of the tax, would benefit by the whole amount of the remission. Then if we look to the improvement of art, what a great encouragement it will give to the art of engraving if we reduce the duty on plate glass. Then if we look to the consideration of health, of what immense importance is the article of glass. Nothing prevented the passage of heat like glass. The passage of heat through a single plate of glass, compared with its passage through two plates of glass, having a larger between them, was as ten to one. All parts of the United Kingdom will be benefited by it—Ireland, Scotland, and England, will be equally benefited. Ireland will derive a direct benefit from the reduction of the duty on glass, and I do not see any reason why Ireland should not become the seat of a successful glass manufacture. This reduction will give to the people of Ireland, as well as the people of Great Britain, the command of an article essential to their convenience and comfort. I hope that the house will acquiesce in the recommendation of her Majesty's Government, and select glass as one of the articles on which the Excise duty ought to be entirely abolished. The loss to the revenue from the reduction of the duty on glass would amount to £640,000. I will now recall to the recollection of the house the estimate I made of the amount of revenue, assuming that the income-tax will be continued—I estimated that a surplus revenue, in case the income-tax is continued, would be available on the 5th April, amounting to £3,490,000. I shall now recapitulate the estimate of the reductions which would arise from the reduction or repeal of the different duties which I enumerated.

The estimated loss of sugar, then, is	£1,300,000
The estimated loss on coal is	183,000
The loss on the duty of minor articles imported, being the raw materials of manufactures	320,000
The estimated loss on cotton-wool	680,000
The estimated loss on auction-duty	250,000
The estimated loss on glass	640,000
I include the loss on staves in the	£320,000
The total loss to revenue—I am now speaking of the immediate loss—(hear, hear)—if our reductions are sanctioned by the house, would be	£3,338,000

very nearly absorbing the actual surplus from the income tax of £3,490,000. I stated before, that in proposing the continuance of the income-tax, we proposed it for the purpose of having a large surplus revenue, but I thought it right to appropriate the surplus, after defraying the recurring expenditure of the country, to the removal of those burdens which pressed most heavily on the industry of the country; and I conceive that the amount of reductions made fulfil that part of the pledge. Now, observe that I have taken no credit for the ultimate saving that will be certain to result by the reduction of the duty upon glass, for I do contend for it, that the result will be a very material saving. Observe also, that I have taken no credit for the increase of consumption that must follow the removal of the heavy duty on the articles of manufacture. This is an experiment, certainly, and I do not hesitate to say it is a bold experiment. But, looking at the result of the experiment we made last year—looking at what is now the state of the Customs' revenue after the reduction that has been made—seeing that the Customs' revenue on the 5th of January, 1845, presents a surplus as compared with that of the same period last year, of a sum not less than £1,305,000—(Hear, hear)—after deducting the loss of £122,000, which arose from cotton wool last year, and a sum of £61,000 on sheep's wool—the reduction on the revenue, after making this great experiment, will be £1,305,000. (Cheers.) I have already stated that I intend to call upon the house to continue the income-tax for a further limited period, because I have the most confident persuasion that the reductions made on the articles I have mentioned will be followed by the most beneficial results. (Hear, hear.) Remember this—that during its operation, the revenue has so prospered, that the receipts in the present year, independent of the income tax, almost amounted to the expenditure of the country. Of course we might have avoided making this experiment—we might have applied the surplus of the present year without making increased taxes; but we propose the income-tax, not for the supplies of the year, but for the purpose of enabling us to make this great experiment.—We do not ask that the income tax should endure for a longer term than three years—for a less period I hope the house will not see the necessity for its continuance. At the expiration of three years I have a confident belief that that will have occurred which has now occurred, and that it will be competent for you to dispense with the income tax altogether. I have such a confidence in the elasticity of the resources of the country, that, before three years shall have elapsed, the revenue will have increased to such a degree as will enable you to dispense with the tax altogether. Remember this, that the principles on which we have gone, we have gone on advisedly. We have, in every case, repealed the tax. Whatever may be the decision of the house, at any rate we shall have the consolation of knowing that we have not sought popularity by evading the question of continued taxation. (Hear, hear.) But it is our object, while we establish the principle, at the same time viewing the state of society, and the magnitude of the interests involved—the consequences upon those interests, of a hasty and rash interference—our avowed object is to realise the utmost degree of good, without the disturbance or alarm of interests, which cannot be disturbed, and which cannot be alarmed, without paralysing the industry of the country. Sir, I submit, therefore, this proposal on the part of her Majesty's Government to the judgment of this house. We have adopted it after careful consideration. We recommend it on the deliberate conviction that the sanction of it by this house will conduce to the extension of industry and the encouragement of enterprise, and that the result of that extension of that industry and the result of the encouragement of that enterprise to all classes of the country, whether directly connected with commerce or industry, be they manufacturing, be they agricultural, or be they not connected with any particular department of industry, our conviction is, that by the adoption of this proposal, industry and commerce will be immediately benefited, and that indirectly every class in this great community will find its welfare promoted.

The right hon. gentleman sat down amidst great cheering from the Opposition benches. He spoke for three hours and a quarter.

The question having been put,
Sir ROBERT PEEL said he did not wish the house to affirm any proposition that night; but he trusted that they would see the great importance of proceeding as early as possible to the consideration of the various proposals. He hoped they would be in a condition to pronounce, on Monday, on the general outlines. Of course, the affirmation of the resolution would not bind the house, but its adoption would enable them to proceed at once to take the sense of the house with respect to the proposed alterations.
Several hon. members then spoke, all of them giving their general approval of the plan, and the further discussion was then postponed till Monday. The adjournment then took place at nine o'clock, till Monday.

LORDS.—MISCELLANEOUS BUSINESS.

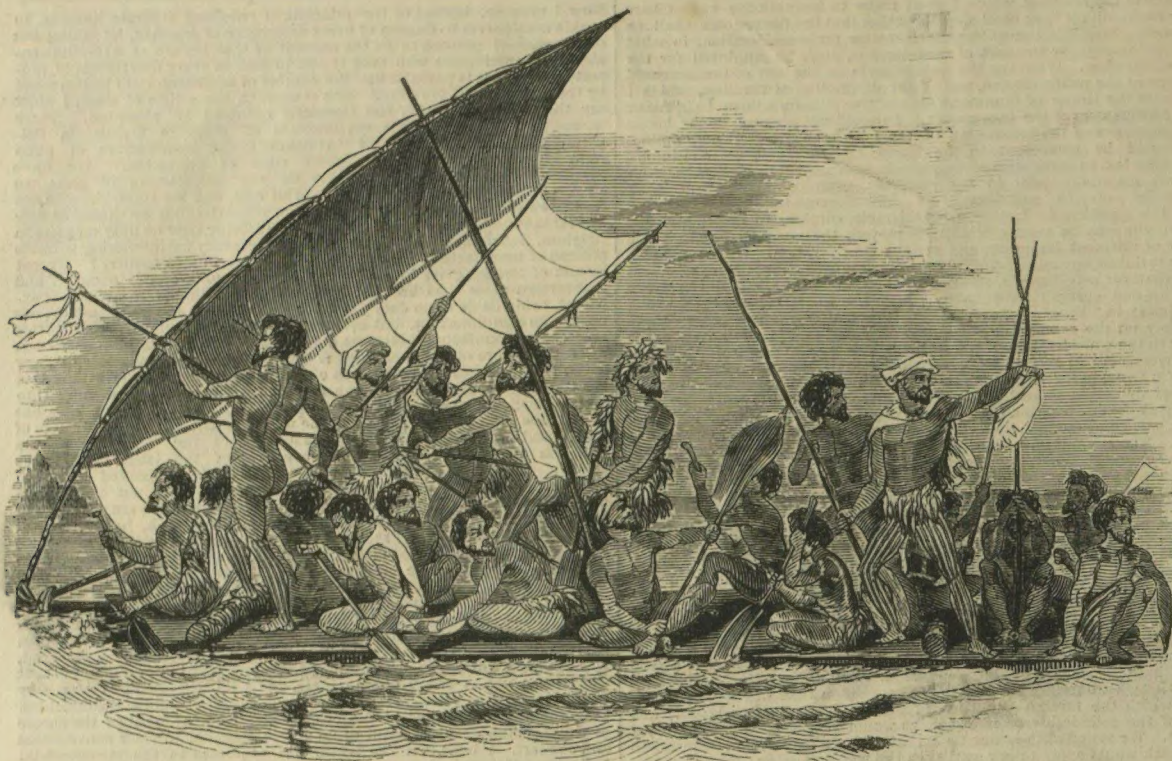
BAIL IN ERROR IN CRIMINAL CASES.—The Lord Chancellor has announced his intention to bring in a bill immediately with the intent of admitting bail in error in criminal cases. As it was not his opinion that the common law right of challenge to the array was taken away by any alteration lately made in the jury law, he did not at present purpose to bring forward any bill on the subject, but he promised to look attentively into the matter.

INTRODUCTION OF LORD STANLEY.—Lord Stanley having been summoned by writ to the House of Lords, under the title of Lord Stanley, of Knowsley, was introduced on Thursday by Lords Redesdale and Wharfedale, and took the oath and his seat.

COMMONS.—MISCELLANEOUS BUSINESS.

NOTICES OF MOTIONS.—Lord Duncan, for the 20th of February, to move for a committee of the whole house, with a view to the repeal of the window-tax, unless forestalled by the promised statement of the First Lord of the Treasury.

COMMITTEES ON RAILWAY BILLS.—On the motion of Lord GRANVILLE SOMERSET, a select committee was nominated to inquire into the best mode of constituting committees on Railway Bills in the present session of Parliament, and of the most expedient manner in which Railway Bills, having relations to similar objects, may be brought under the consideration of the same committee.



RAFT OF GAMBIER ISLANDERS

THE GAMBIER ISLANDS.

The following document has just been communicated to the Chamber of Peers, and the Chamber of Deputies, by the French Minister of Marine: it relates to the conduct of France with regard to this interesting group of Islands in the Pacific, and shows their present actual condition.

"The French Catholic missionaries established during the last ten years in this small archipelago have obtained complete success amongst the chiefs and the inhabitants, whom they instruct and direct without any obstacle, with the object of improving their morals, and by the most pacific treatment.

"This state of affairs, which was perfectly known at the departure of Captain Bruat for Oceania, suggested the observation on the instructions which had been given to him on the 28th of April, 1843, that these islands were most favourable for receiving the protectorate of France.

"It was in consequence of these instructions, and on the occasion of the frigate la Charte having anchored off one of those islands, that the commander of this frigate was present on the 16th of February, 1844, at a declaration made by the principal chiefs assembled, in order to manifest their intention to place themselves and their territory under the protection of the French authorities.

"This act was not followed by any military occupation, nor by the installation of any administrative agent. The French missionary M. Liause, has been acknowledged as the chief of this small society.

"The instructions addressed by Admiral Mackau to Governor Bruat, dated the 16th of July, 1844, recommend him formally to abstain from any act which might engage the King's Government beyond what has been already accomplished.

"It appears indispensable to wait for the conclusion of the difficulties existing in other places before any decision can be adopted relative to this simple acknowledgment of the French authority.

"The group of the Gambier islands possess a good harbour, and are but thinly inhabited. The Methodist missionaries have not endeavoured to penetrate there, and have, consequently, left the inhabitants free without contesting the influence of the French missionaries."

These islands were minutely surveyed by Captain Beechey, who relates many attractive traits of the islanders, in his very popular "Narrative of a

Voyage to the Pacific and Behring's Strait." Several of the Islands have a fertile appearance, especially the largest, on which is situated Mount Duff, the east peak of which is in lat. 23 deg. 7 min. 58 sec.; long. 134 deg. 55 min. 31 sec., W. The Captain gives a circumstantial account of his interview with some of the natives, who approached the ship's boats in katamarans, or rafts, carrying from 16 to 20 men each.

"We were much pleased," says the Captain, "with the manner of lowering their matting sail, diverging on different courses, and working their paddles, in the use of which they had great power, and were well skilled, plying them together, or, to use a nautical phrase, keeping stroke. They had no other weapons but long poles; and were quite naked, with the exception of a banana leaf cut into strips, and tied about their loins; and one or two persons who wore white turbans." They timidly approached both the ship and the barge, but would upset any small boats within their reach; not, however, from any malicious intention, but from thoughtlessness and inquisitiveness. Captain Beechey approached them in the gig, and gave them several presents, for which they, in return, threw him some bundles of paste, tied up in large leaves, which was the common food of the natives. They had some knowledge of iron, but had no idea of the use of a musket. They tempted the Captain and his crew with cocoa-nuts and roots, and invited their approach by performing ludicrous dances; but, as soon as the visitors were within reach, the scene was changed to noise and confusion. A scuffle ensued, and on a gun being fired over their heads, all but four instantly plunged into the sea." The whole of the details of this and succeeding interviews are very amusing. One of the rafts is engraved from Captain Beechey's work.

Captain Beechey states the average height of the Gambier Islanders to be 5ft. 9in.; they are, generally speaking, well-made, their limbs round, without being muscular, and their figure upright and flexible. Tattooing is very extensively practised, in which respect, as in the arrangement of the lines, they much resemble the Marquesas. This general practice in the south seas, when judiciously executed, besides having its useful effects, is highly ornamental. In the Gambier Islanders there was a greater display of taste than Capt. Beechey saw or heard of anywhere else, not excepting at the Marquesas: but the Nukahivers, as well as the Otaheitans, and others, attend principally to device; whereas the Gambier Islanders dispose the lines so as materially to improve the figure, particularly about the waist, which,



[RANAVALONA, QUEEN OF MADAGASCAR, IN HER STATE HOWDAH.]

at a little distance, has the appearance of being much smaller than it really is. Whether this was accidental or designed, Captain Beechey had no opportunity of learning.

The ship Philip Dean has brought news from Buenos Ayres to the 26th of November, whereby we learn that great dissension had occurred among the authorities of Monte Video, which indicated the probability of a speedy surrender of the city to the Buenos Ayrean army, commanded by Oribe. The life and soul of the Government was Pasteco y Obes, who had left it. By this conveyance we have received a translated copy of a decree of the Government of Corrientes, confiscating all the Argentine property, of which they had possessed themselves. Corrientes, by this decree allows the navigation of the rivers by neutrals, but Rosas will not allow it, except to the Paraguayans with their own flag, and even this permission, it was anticipated, he would soon interdict under some pretext or other. The Paraguay trade was at a dead stand, and likely to remain so, in consequence of the decree in question.

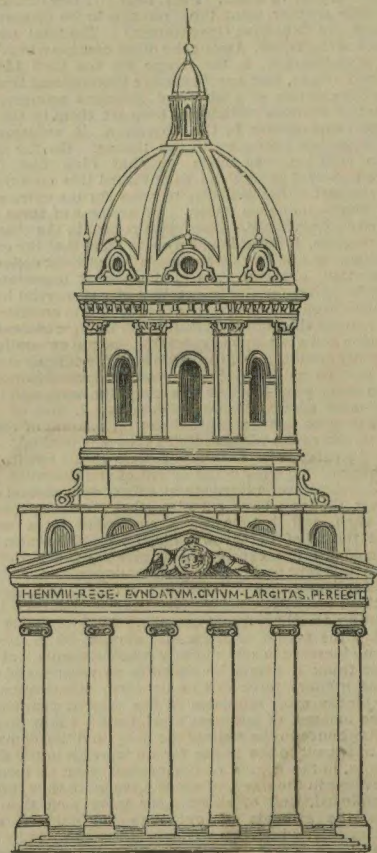
The Dee has arrived at Southampton with the West India mails. The papers are destitute of interest. The Honduras Observer says that an earthquake was experienced at the Belize on the night of the 25th November. It was a continuous vibratory motion, commencing slowly, and increasing in violence. It lasted about twenty seconds.

From Mexico we learn, by these papers, that Santa Anna was in retreat for Vera Cruz, and a rumour prevailed that he would ultimately take shelter on board one of her Majesty's ships. This seems not improbable, if it be true, as reported, that his troops were fast deserting him. The existing Government was popular, and active measures were being adopted to fortify Vera Cruz, and save it from the threatened attack of the ex-President. Martial law had been declared in the city. General Paredes was fast following Santa Anna, and it is probable that the next mail will bring intelligence of a collision between the opposing parties.

NEW DOME—BETHLEM HOSPITAL.

Various improvements, from the design of Mr. Sydney Smirke, have lately been made at this ancient establishment, which are calculated both to extend its benefits, and enhance the comfort of the inmates. Two new wings, for the employment of convalescent lunatics, have been added to the rear, and other minor alterations carried out.

The most important feature, however, now connected with the Hospital is the new dome, of which the above is an illustration. This dome is about 150 feet in height, from ground to summit; and the diameter 37 feet. The whole is composed of brick and stone, covered with copper, and finished in such a manner as is calculated to materially improve the general appearance of the structure.



DOME OF BETHLEM HOSPITAL.

The form of the dome is octagonal, resting upon a square base, which rises above the pediment of the portico. On each of the eight sides are circular openings with stone dressings, which are for the ventilation of the new chapel beneath.

THE REV. DR. WOLFF.

Intelligence of Dr. Wolff has been received to the 10th of January, at which date, as already stated, he was at Erzerum, endeavouring to recruit his strength for the journey over the mountains to Trebizonde. At Tehran the doctor was received in the kindest manner by Colonel Shiel, her Majesty's Envoy, who sent a Government golam to meet him. He left Tehran in a tuckrawan (a sort of litter), and by easy stages reached Tabris. Here the judicious treatment of Dr. Casolari enabled him, after some days' repose, to proceed by a similar conveyance towards Erzerum. On reaching the Turkish frontier, owing to the immense accumulation of snow, he was obliged to proceed on horseback; and, after great bodily suffering, he reached Erzerum, on the 4th of January, completely exhausted. As soon as her Majesty's commissioner, the kind-hearted Colonel Williams, R.A. heard of the doctor's approach, he rode as far as the last pass to meet him, and escorted him into the town. Dr. Wolff is too ill to write to any one, and cannot move from the sofa; it is, however, hoped that the kind attentions of Colonel Williams, which have really been beyond all praise, will enable him to proceed, in about a fortnight, to Trebizonde.

A paragraph having gone the round of the papers stating that Dr. Wolff never was in personal danger at Bokhara, and that he could have left when he pleased, and as such a statement was probably intended to weaken the sympathy every Englishman must feel for this noble-minded man, who exposed himself to such horrible sufferings in attempting the release of two British Envoys, Captain Grover thinks it right to state that Dr. Wolff was in the greatest danger during the whole period of his stay at Bokhara, that guards were placed round his bed, and that he was indebted for his escape to Mirza Kouli Khan, the Persian Ambassador, who refused to leave Bokhara without him.

THE QUEEN OF MADAGASCAR.

The blockade by a British man-of-war of the extensive and beautiful island of Madagascar, has invested its daring and cruel Queen with a fresh European interest. The subjoined engraving exhibits Ranavalona in her state palanquin, as she ordinarily appears on public occasions; and will give to strangers a good notion of the barbaric splendours of her half civilized court. Her Majesty, it may be remembered, usurped the Malagasy throne on the first of August, 1828, having been one of the inferior of the twelve Queens who constituted the domestic establishment of King Radama. Soon after her assumption of the supreme power, she discovered herself to be the friend of the ancient superstitions of the island, the enemy of the English whom she expelled, and the determined opponent of all social improvements—a policy she continues to maintain. This is, of course, deeply to be regretted, as there are few parts of the globe which are entitled, either by their geographical position, their national advantages, or the moral and social features of their inhabitants, to higher commercial or national considerations than Madagascar.

The island occupies, in regard to Africa, a position analogous to that of Great Britain in respect to the European Continents—though the Mosambique Channel, which separates it from the main land, is of vastly greater dimensions than the British Channel; it extends through the finest part of the torrid, into the temperate zone; it lies directly across one of the most frequented of commercial routes—that between Europe and India, being many days sail from the Cape of Good Hope on the one hand, and the islands of Bourbon and Mauritius on the other; it presents a geographical surface of 225,000 square miles, being nearly three times the size of Great Britain, and is, in all points of view, too important to be long destined to a savage and solitary existence. We shall be glad to learn—what in all probability will be the issue of the quarrel—that a few cannon-balls at Foul Point, will bring us into relations of amity with the Queen and her fruitful fields.

THE ROYAL PAVILION, BRIGHTON.

The visit of her Majesty and the Court to this superb watering-place, suggests the presentation of the annexed engravings of the Royal Palace; the history of which may be thus briefly told.

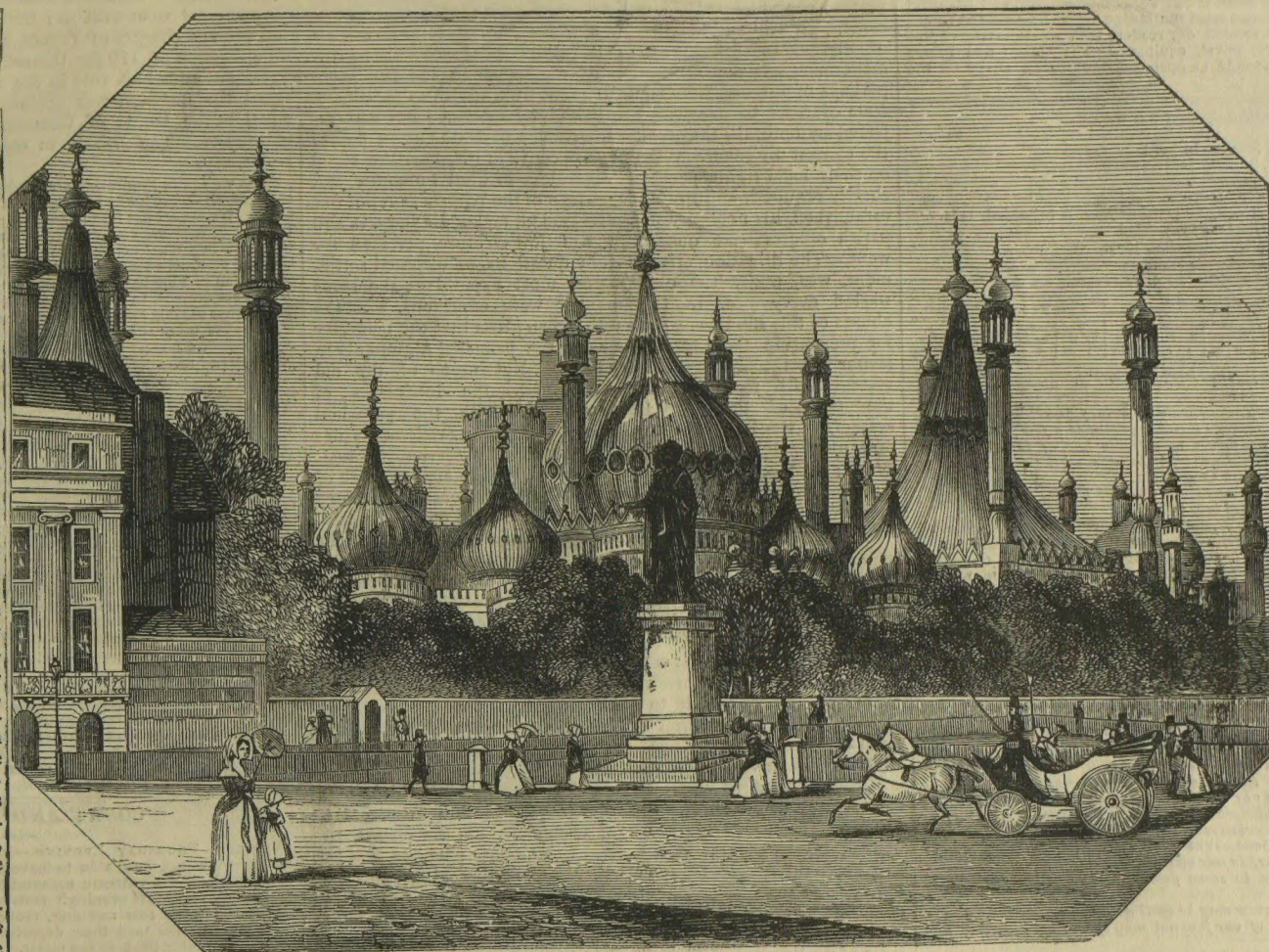
It is now about 60 years since George IV., then Prince of Wales, purchased a villa on the north-western side of the Steine, and at that time, nearly in the centre of Brighton; which was transformed into a "Marine Pavilion," under the superintendence of Henry Holland, Esq., one of the architects of Carlton House. It consisted of a circular, temple-like edifice, with a domed roof: attached to it were two wings, of two stories each, with verandahs; the south wing having been the villa purchased by the Prince.

This plain, unostentatious structure, did not long satisfy the taste of its Royal occupant; and his Royal Highness's favourite architect, the late Mr. Nash, accordingly produced a design more in accordance with the Prince's love of the gorgeous; from which was erected the present "Pavilion," of brick stuccoed, with the exception of the minarets.

In its external architecture, the Pavilion assumes the characteristics of the Oriental style, and domes, cones, and minarets spring from its roofs to a considerable height. The pretensions of the design to Orientalism are, however, set aside by Mr. Daniell, who resided some years in the East, and who observes: "If the architect aimed at an imitation of Oriental architecture, it is to be lamented that he trusted so implicitly to conjecture, for there is not a feature, great or small, which at all accords with the purity, grandeur, and magnificence, that characterise the genuine Oriental style."

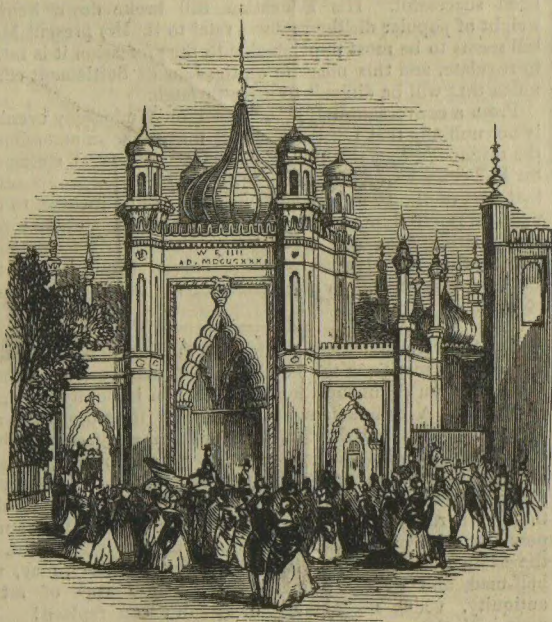
The principal or eastern front of the Pavilion is shown in our first illustration; with the north-west portion of the Steine, and Chantrey's bronze statue of George IV., a grateful tribute of the inhabitants of Brighton to the illustrious *Arbiter Elegantiarum*, who may be said to have founded the prosperity of this magnificent town. This garden-front of the Palace consists, in effect, of three pavilions, connected by two ranges of building. The central part projects semicircularly, and is surmounted by a vast dome, presenting the appearance of an inverted balloon, partially filled, and tapering upwards into a pinnacle to the height of 130 feet; and flanked, on each side, by a lofty minaret. This part incloses the rotunda, or saloon, the longest diameter of which is about 55 feet. On the north and south the saloon opens into apartments, measuring about 50 by 20 feet; externally projecting in two bows on each side, crowned by domes of similar shape to that in the centre, but of smaller dimensions. These unite with the wings, which are of square form, and are each surmounted by a lofty cone, rising between four minarets, which are of Bath stone, as are also the central pinnacles, which are still more elevated than the former. The south wing contains the banquetting-room, and in the north is the music-room. Adjoining the latter is a smaller building, of square form, surmounted by a dome and minarets, similar to those already described. All the domes have vertical divisions, and are otherwise ornamented; and the fronts of the wings and central part are screened by projecting arcades of lattice-work. Near the south wing is a large red brick building, formerly the Castle Tavern, which was purchased by George IV.; and the ball-room, a rectangle of 80 by 40 feet, with recesses, has been converted into a chapel, as an appendage to the Palace.

The opposite or western front of the Pavilion is nearly similar to the garden-front, but has a centre projecting rather more, with a neat square portico, supported by pillars. This side contains the vestibule, hall, Chinese gallery, and various drawing, reading, breakfast, and other rooms.



THE PAVILION.—GARDEN FRONT.

Northward of the Pavilion are the stables, an incongruous mixture of Moorish or Hindoo and other styles of architecture. Nevertheless, from their extent and elevation, the pile has an imposing air. It is circular in plan, approached by four lofty



THE PAVILION.—NORTH ENTRANCE.

arches; the circle inclosing an area of about 250 feet in circumference, surmounted by a vast glazed dome, in which so great is the quantity of lead and glass that it attracts and retains the heat so powerfully, that the extensive archways do not suffice to ventilate the stables surrounding the area. Adjoining is a tennis-

court and a riding school; in the latter, 200 feet long, and 50 feet broad, her Majesty and Prince Albert occasionally take exercise. Very few horses are lodged in this expensive pile, the building of which cost upwards of £70,000.

The entrance-gates to the Pavilion are north and south. The southern entrance opens into Castle-square, and is divided by minarets into three divisions, the centre having a handsome archway.

The northern entrance, built for William IV., in 1832, and shown in the second illustration, is, comparatively, of faultless proportions. It is crowned with a dome in the style of the central one of the Pavilion, and rises from a tower, having at each angle a substantial turret, crowned with a smaller dome; the wings are finished with light fluted minarets. The form of the arch, with the lion and regal crown at its point, is graceful and pleasing, and the embellishments throughout are in a chaste style. Nevertheless, the entrance is disproportionately important to the Palace itself.

The interior of the Pavilion is a succession of overwrought gorgeousness, and frittered ornament: nevertheless, there are some chastely-embellished apartments of redeeming beauty.

The entire Palace has been elaborately described by the architect, Mr. Nash, in a work devoted to the purpose, with several illustrations. The offices, as might be expected from the taste of the Royal founder, are adapted for luxurious accommodation: the kitchen is a marvel of completeness, and the wine cellars are walled with China tiles.

The grounds of the Pavilion are retired; the east front opens to a lawn of about 300 feet in extent; on the north, are shrubberies; on the west, pleasure-grounds, and a grove of elms; and, on the south, the Chapel Royal, and other buildings. The whole of the demesne comprises between seven and eight acres; the principal part of which was obtained by purchase, and the rest by grants from the inhabitants of Brighton.

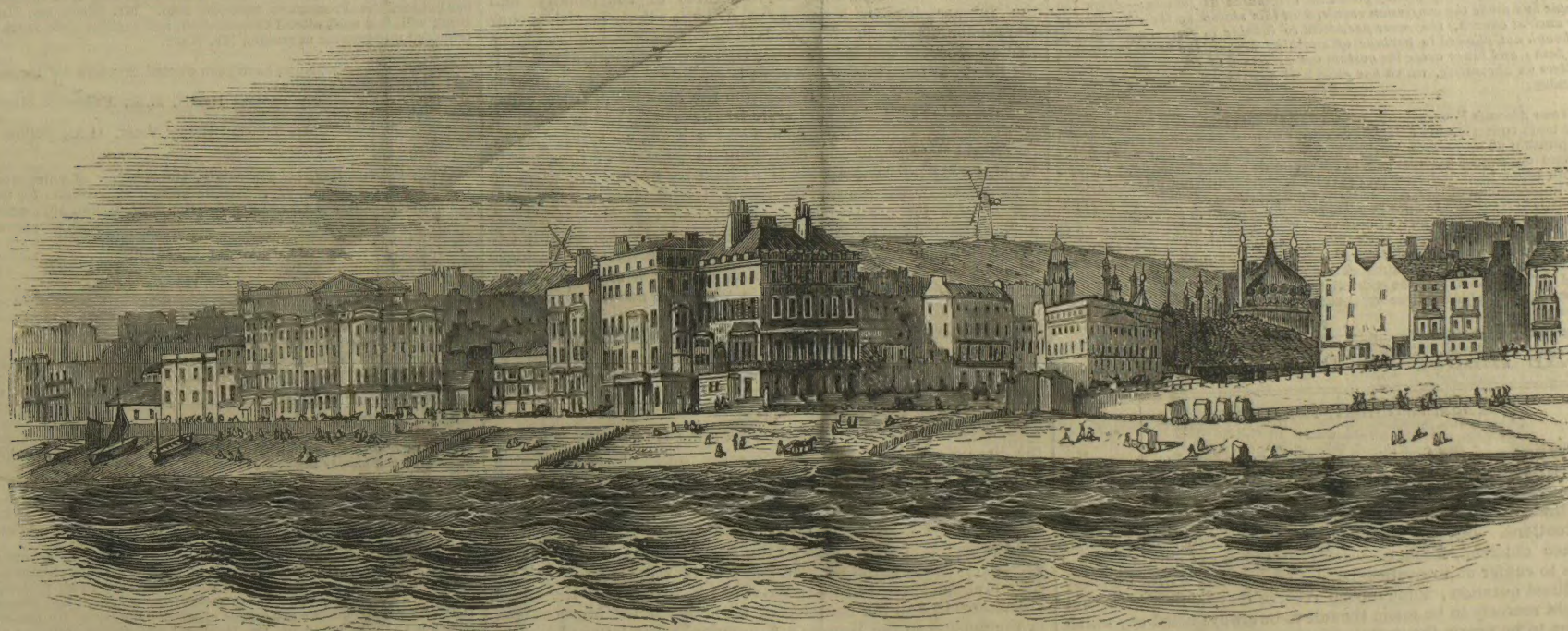
Our third illustration shows the Pavilion, and the view of the town westward; with the Junction-road, and the lofty pile of the Town Hall buildings, &c.

THE COURT AT BRIGHTON.

On Saturday morning her Majesty and Prince Albert were exposed to much annoyance. It appears that with a view of enjoying a private walk, the Queen and Prince Albert, in plain dresses, her Majesty also wearing a veil, walked from the Palace to the pier. Her Majesty was dressed in a tartan plaid pelisse of French merino, trimmed with dark fur, a straw bonnet, trimmed with velvet, and a black lace veil. Prince Albert wore a kind of shooting jacket of dark velvet. The Royal pair gained the pier unobserved, and walked for nearly an hour, when they prepared to return. The fact that her Majesty was on the pier had, however, become known; and as the Queen and Prince left the esplanade, a considerable number of persons crowded round the toll-gate, and many of them followed her Majesty, as the Prince and herself walked towards the Pavilion. As the Royal pair approached Castle-square the crowd pressed forward more closely, and some errand boys rudely peered beneath her Majesty's bonnet. The Queen eventually escaped from her annoying followers by entering the Palace by the private gates. Her Majesty, it appears, was so displeased with this rude behaviour, that a communication was made to the magistrates, who have since taken steps to prevent a recurrence of the annoyance. The inhabitants of Brighton sometimes felt themselves aggrieved because they did not often enjoy the presence of Royalty; but if the Queen cannot enjoy a walk without being subjected to annoyances from which the meanest of her subjects are free, it is not to be wondered that Brighton is so seldom selected for the Royal residence.

TUESDAY.—Her Majesty took another walk this morning, notwithstanding the ground was covered with snow. Accompanied by Prince Albert, her Majesty drove along the King's road as far as the Battery, where the Royal party alighted; and her Majesty and the Prince walked across the snowy beach, to the water's edge, where the snow had been washed away by the tide. Thence they proceeded westward as far as Brunswick-square, where the carriage was waiting, and next drove to the Chain-pier. The Queen and Prince Albert walked to the pier-head; and on their return met the carriage containing Lady Lyttelton and her Royal children.

WEDNESDAY.—Her Majesty and Prince Albert, and the Princess Royal, accompanied by the Dowager Lady Lyttelton, rode out upon their new



BRIGHTON, FROM THE SEA.

Prince Albert, and the Royal party proceeded as far as Clayton Tunnel, about six miles from Brighton, before they returned. The sledge is very elegantly constructed, and the ponies being elegantly harnessed with a profusion of bells, it had altogether a novel and beautiful appearance. His Royal Highness tried the sledge before he took the Queen out. (Next week, we shall present our readers with an engraving of this elegant, and, in this country, novel, equipage.) The Queen and Prince Albert rode out in the afternoon in an open carriage, for an airing on the cliffs.

CALENDAR FOR THE WEEK.

SUNDAY, Feb. 16.—Second Sunday in Lent.
MONDAY, 17.—Battle of St. Albans, 1461.
TUESDAY, 18.—Martin Luther died, 1546.
WEDNESDAY, 19.—Galileo born, 1564.
THURSDAY, 20.—Voltaire born, 1694; Duke of Suffolk beheaded, 1554.
FRIDAY, 21.—Archbishop Cranmer burnt, 1556.
SATURDAY, 22.—Sir Joshua Reynolds died, 1792.

High Water at London-bridge, for the week ending Feb. 22.

Monday.	Tuesday.	Wednesday.	Thursday.	Friday.	Saturday.
h. m. a. m. h. m. a. m. h. m. a. m. h. m. a. m. h. m. a. m. h. m. a. m.	10 8 10 51 11 31 0 0 7 7 0 37 1 1 1 22 1 41 2 1 2 19 2 36				

TO CORRESPONDENTS.

"A Constant Reader," Cork.—The surname of Prince Albert is not given in the Memoirs of his Royal Highness's Family, published a few years since.
"F. P.," Penzance.—We are not aware of billiards having been played on board ship, whilst at sea. The registered tonnage of the Great Western steamship is 1340; of the British Queen 1862.
"R. M. M.," should write to the Secretary of the Art-Union, at Edinburgh; the distribution must, surely, have taken place.
"A Correspondent."—The address of the Association for the Protection of Dressmakers and Milliners is 23, Blandford-street, Portman-square.
"A Young Tradesman."—There is in Westminster "Arneway's Charity," the funds of which are vested in trustees, who grant thereout loans of £30 to £100, at interest, to poor occupiers or traders resident within the City and Liberty of Westminster; Clerk and Solicitor, Mr. E. S. Stephenson.
"Rev. F. B.," Naam, Ireland.—The computations of Lipsius as to the population of the Roman of the Cæsars have long been questioned; but "the English Opium Eater," from a close study of the question, and a laborious collation of the different data, is satisfied that Lipsius was nearer the truth than his critics; and that the Roman population of every class—slaves, aliens, people of the suburbs included, lay between five and six millions. The present population of London is but two millions.
"Vernon."—By means of the excellently-appointed steam-vessels of the Oriental Steam Navigation Company, the whole distance from England to Calcutta has, we believe, been accomplished in 30 days.
"L. F."—We are not aware of the name of the inventor of the raised type for teaching the blind to read; or whether he himself was blind. The latest apparatus, invented by Mr. Littledale, of York, was described last year, at the meeting of the British Association.
"A Sincere Admirer," Birkenhead.—The View of London in 1842, may be had, by remitting 1s., post free, to our office.
"A. B. D."—Convicts sentenced to seven years' transportation are sent to Woolwich or Portsmouth.
"J. W.," Birmingham.—The name may be spelt with or without the k.
"W. M."—Covers for Vol. IV. of our journal may be had, by order, of any bookseller.
"A. G.," near Oundle.—Covers for the half-yearly volumes, 3s. each, may be had, by order, of any bookseller.
"R. J. S."—A sovereign is, in all cases, a legal tender, without deduction, in payment for goods purchased.
"P. Q. R.," Liverpool.—The retiring pension of a Premier is £2000 per annum, provided he has held office two years.
"A Subscriber," Hues.—We know nothing of the engraving promised in the Picture Lottery referred to.
"J. F.," St. Outhert, Cornwall, is thanked for the Meteorological Table, for which, however, we have not room.
"F. W." will find the required information in the "Hints on Etiquette," published by Messrs. Longman.
"O. Z.," Tottenham-court-road.—Reasonable expenses are allowed in prosecutions for criminal offences.
"R. F.," Edinburgh.—The entire population of Glasgow, city and suburbs, is 274,533; of Liverpool, 286,487.
"Oldham's Folee," Aberdeen.—A newspaper, if cut, cannot be sent postage free.
"A Subscriber," Egrement.—The sketch may appear.
"S. M. D.," Liverpool.—No. 199 has not yet appeared. Balfe's "Daughter of St. Mark" is of a higher character than "The Bohemian Girl."
"A. B. C."—The addresses of Lord Templemore are 38, Park-street, Grosvenor-square; and Dunroby Park, county Wexford.
"A. P."—Lines on the Rose, ineligible.
"T. P. L." should order the "Prints and Numbers" of Mr. Fowler, Leicester.
"Penna."—The remuneration is regulated by the talent of the parties.
"O. S.," Woolwich.—Ineligible.
"Apis Matina," in reply to a correspondent, states that "Todd's Index Remum" may be purchased of R. J. Kennett, 14, York-street, Covent-garden.
"Caractacus."—Ineligible.
"A Stage-struck Ignoramus."—Mr. Webster's address is Theatre Royal, Haymarket. The sums paid for a five-act play vary from £100 to £600.
"J. Long."—Taylor's Shorthand, improved by Harding.
"Caesarmagus."—We received our information from Mr. Dolland, St. Paul's Church-yard.
"J. W. M." should apply to Mr. Chappell, music-seller, Bond-street.
"Will Fern."—The charge for inspecting the Great Britain steam-ship, including railway fare, is 1s. 8d.
"H. W.," York, is thanked for the hint.
"J. T.," Charlotte-street, should submit the sketches.
"A Constant Subscriber."—A letter addressed to the care of Messrs. Longmans will reach the gentleman.
"F. S. L.," Worcester.—The number of Jullien's band varies with circumstances.
"Esperance," Brixton, is referred to his news-agent.
"T. P.," Uckfield.—The account of the concert reached us too late.
"J. U. K.," Petworth.—Our correspondent should apply to his news-agent for another print.
"C. A.," Sunderland.—A neat account of the Blue Coat School is published by Effingham Wilson.
"B.," near Royston.—The majority is 21 years.
"A. F. B.," Birmingham.—There is no point whatever between the verb and the accusative in the first line of Gray's Elegy.
"M. M. D." is thanked for the sketch—but we have not room.
"G. C. M.," Middleton, should apply to a news-man: the price is 1s. 6d., with three Nos.
Lines by "H.," Bristol, and by "A. B. M.," are ineligible.
"Adephos," Rasein, is in error.
"J. P. Q.," Birmingham, should consult any History of the French Revolution.
"J. G."—The custom of eating pancakes originated as follows:—After the people had made the confession required at this season by the discipline of the ancient church, they were permitted to indulge in festive amusements, although not allowed to partake of anything beyond the usual substitutes for flesh; and hence arose the custom yet preserved of eating pancakes and fritters on Shrove-tide, which has given this day the appellation of Pancake Tuesday.

Avis aux Abonnés Français.—Messrs. Aubert et Co., Place de la Bourse, Paris, prient leurs souscripteurs à L'ILLUSTRATED LONDON NEWS de se rappeler, qu'à l'expiration de leur abonnement, l'avant dernier numéro leur sera adressé dans une enveloppe colorée. A la réception de cet avertissement, et pour prévenir toute interruption dans l'envoi du journal, ils sont priés de renouveler immédiatement leur abonnement: les journaux Anglais ne pouvant être envoyés franc de port par la poste sept jours après la publication.

NOTICE TO FRENCH SUBSCRIBERS.—Messrs. Aubert et Co., Place de la Bourse, Paris, beg to inform their Subscribers, that from this date they will receive intimation of the expiration of their subscription, by the last number but one of the paper being addressed in a coloured envelope; particular care should be taken to renew the subscription in time, as the law of England is, that no paper shall go free by post to foreign parts one week after publication.

THE ILLUSTRATED LONDON NEWS.

LONDON, SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 15, 1845.

THE business of the Session can hardly yet be said to have commenced; there has been no debating, and all the interest of the Parliamentary proceedings is confined to the questions and replies that sometimes elicit a slight indication of future measures or intentions. But this information is not frequently obtained, or when obtained, altogether definite; the possession of office seems to confer an unrivalled faculty of avoiding a direct answer to a direct question; some official reserve may be necessary, but it ought scarcely to be made the rule to be always acted on, which appears to be nearly the case.

One measure only of any great public importance has been introduced this week, and that is the bill for amending the Law of Settlement. Every one must be familiar with the evils of the present parochial system, which made parish officers, in some cases, go to the length of absolute homicide by neglect of giving, or refusing to give, relief in cases where the settlement was doubtful. Destitute persons in the last stage perhaps of disease, were banded about from parish to parish and from overseer to overseer, recognised by neither party and rejected by both, till they sank exhausted, and death put an end to the contest by removing the hapless cause of it. Parishes stood on their legal rights perfectly regardless of what humanity and charity required, and till the legal title of the pauper to relief was established, his necessity was disregarded, and while lawyers and parish officers were quarrelling, a fellow creature perished for want. The litigation arising from questions of disputed settlement, was, under the old system, most expensive; the sums wasted every year in this manner were enormous, and the abuses of this kind were proved to be so gross that the necessity for preventing them formed one of the principal arguments in favour of the New Poor-law Act. But much of the old system still remains, and to remedy the intricacies of the Law of Settlement as connected with the parochial system, is the object of Sir J. Graham's bill. Settlements are now obtained by birth, by apprenticeship, by service, by residence; all requiring proof and evidence, which, after a lapse of many years, is difficult to obtain. The new measure proposes that after the passing of the act, birth alone shall confer a settlement, leaving all existing settlements unchanged. The bill, in fact, has no retroactive effect, but is prospective only. In the bill proposed by Sir J. Graham last year, he made a residence of five years confer such a right of settlement, irrespective of birth, that a pauper could not be removed if he became chargeable. The beneficial effect of this is evident enough, as so long a residence cannot but in most cases have produced ties and connections with a locality from which it must be painful to be severed. But now this provision is to be expunged, and we regret that it is so. We do not see that a rigid adherence to the birth-settlement alone is absolutely necessary, and many cases may occur in which it will be very objectionable.

But the great feature of the bill is one that we think will excite more of opposition than the author of it anticipates. He proposes, as far as questions of settlement are concerned, to abolish altogether the division of England into parishes, and to substitute the district unions for them. This breaking up of an old system, so grown in, as it were, and blended with our social condition, is not a thing to be assented to without great consideration. Already symptoms of opposition are visible from both sides of the house, and this part of the bill will evidently be warmly contested. The abolishing of the clause of the act of last year, making long residence a bar to removal, has also injured the measure; and with these two objections to it, it would not at all surprise us to see it miscarry in its progress through the house, as many of Sir James Graham's, be it said in passing, have done before. He is an able and dexterous administrator of a law when made, but as the originator of legislative measures, he has not been successful. His Education Bill broke down beneath a weight of popular dislike that was fatal to it. His present Medical bill seems to be most unpalatable to the profession it is intended to regulate, and this measure on the Law of Settlement contains much that will be difficult to carry through.

From a conversation that occurred on Wednesday evening, it is not unlikely that Lord J. Russell may move an amendment in the discussion that will take place on the Financial statement of Sir R. Peel. If the amendment should refer to a modification of that part of the Property Tax which presses on income, to which we have referred in another article, we think the noble lord will have a strong case, and his opposition may prove formidable, as the question is not a party but a universal one. Everything, however, will depend on the details of the Prime Minister's proposition.

THERE must be some magic hidden in the sum of five pounds. It will release a man from the consequence of many grievous offences, and, if he can command the sum, give him impunity in committing them. A ruffian may beat a man, or if he prefers it, a woman, to any amount short of causing death, and five pounds will satisfy the law; this has been proved over and over again, at our police-offices, which present frequent instances of gentlemen indulging in the luxury of a piece of brutality, as they would in that of a rare bottle of wine, or very out of season and impossible fruits, or any other rarity, or it may be excitement. For the same sum any fool with a taste for notoriety, may, when half-mad, and wholly drunk, destroy a rare work of art and antiquity, which no amount of wealth can replace! Five pounds is the price of the indulgence; the demolishing of the Portland vase, at the British Museum, and the proceedings consequent on it, are as good as an advertisement, that in all public galleries and collections, sculpture and paintings may be destroyed on the lowest possible terms, with every facility given, and perhaps a reduction allowed to any one demolishing a quantity! A Rubens or a Titian are dirt cheap at the price, considering the notice to be gained by the transaction, and an Eve by Bailey or a Grace by Canova, present very eligible opportunities of acquiring distinction. Considering the smallness of the penalty and the intense love of fame in the class that furnishes our Oxford and Beans, we would advise the closing the doors of the British Museum and the National Gallery for a month at least, till the mania of imitation, that almost invariably follows such strokes of genius, dies out. One suicide from the Monument is the cause of several. There are many more fragile articles in the Museum, to which a fit of delirium tremens and a lump of stone may be fatal. As the law gives no protection to what is of inestimable value, let the guardians of them at least try to preserve them by some effort of their own. Seriously, the glaring defect of the law in this respect is lamentable. Some vagabond, with his nerves and judgment all shattered by drunkenness, wilfully destroys a work of art, the loss of which is absolutely a national one, and he can escape with a paltry fine, or a slight imprisonment, which to one so degraded is probably no punishment at all. The subject has very properly been taken notice of in Parliament, and we do hope, this great defect will be remedied. Surely a rare work, by a Raphael or Titian, ought to have as great an amount of protection from the law as a sapling or a bunch of turnips!

THE French press is not satisfied with the Queen's Speech, and the discussion upon the Address in reply to it. There is nothing wonderful in that, for it is difficult to say what would not be made a grievance that England is connected with. But their remarks are something less fierce and violent than might have been expected, being rather of the nature of grumbling than of invective. The most serious complaints are founded on the contemplated increase in our naval force, particularly the steam portion of it, and the omission of all notice of the Morocco war in the debates of the House of Commons! The latter phenomenon may be explained from a habit very common among

Englishmen, of not talking much of what is no concern of theirs—a habit which our neighbours might imitate with advantage. But the French are no less discontented with their own Government than with us: the attempt to effect a reduction in the postage charges of France has failed in the French Chamber, on a division of 170 for the reduction, and 169 against it; the President added his vote in the negative, and the numbers being equal, the question was declared lost. When the numbers are equal in the House of Commons, the decision is given in the affirmative. The *Débats*, in commenting on the extraordinary result, says:—

Thus we are in France—the most timid men in the world in making useful changes, the most hardy and the most rash in vain and dangerous innovations. We are all fire for revolutions, and all ice for good and wise reforms. It is not so that our neighbours, the English, proceed, and they are not the worse for it. What boldness and what resolution is there in their conceptions of political economy! They diminish the postage on letters in the proportion of nine to one, and at the same moment they draw from their coffers 500,000,000, to indemnify the proprietors of slaves in their colonies. We discuss during long years the expediency of emancipation of postal reform and of other subjects more or less worthy of interest. We make good speeches, we compose better books, but when it becomes necessary to carry any of those measures into effect, our heart fails us.

Had such a severe censure appeared in an English paper, it would have been denounced as another proof of national hatred and antipathy.

ANOTHER REPORT FROM THE BOARD OF TRADE ON RAILWAYS.

Railway Department, Board of Trade, Whitehall, Feb. 11.
Notice is hereby given, that the Board constituted by the Minute of the Lords of the Committee of Privy Council for Trade, for the transaction of railway business, having had under consideration the Bolton, Wigan, and Liverpool Railway scheme, have decided on reporting to Parliament in favour of the said scheme:

And the Board, having further had under consideration the following schemes, proposed by the Liverpool and Manchester Railway Company, viz., the Patricroft and Clifton Branches, the St. Helens and Rufford Branch, the Parkside Branch, the Extensions into Liverpool, have decided on reporting to Parliament in favour of the Patricroft and Clifton Branches, the Parkside Branch, the Extensions into Liverpool, and against the St. Helens and Rufford Branch.

And the Board having further had under consideration the Trent Valley Railway scheme, have decided on reporting to Parliament in favour of the said scheme, with the exception of the Potteries and the Alrewas Branches, the postponement of which, until a future period, will be recommended.

DALHOUSIE.

C. W. PASLEY.

D. O'BRIEN.

G. R. PORTER.

S. LAING.

COURT AND HAUT TON.

WINDSOR, THURSDAY EVENING.—Her Royal Highness the Duchess of Kent, who has not been able to leave Frogmore House during the day, in consequence of the extreme unfavourable nature of the weather, gave a small dinner party this evening. Covers were laid for fifteen. Information reached the Castle this morning, that her Majesty and his Royal Highness Prince Albert, will take their departure from Brighton, for Buckingham Palace, on Tuesday next, at the latest. The infant Royal Family will remain for about a week or ten days longer at the Pavilion. The new organ, towards the erection of which, her Majesty and his Royal Highness Prince Albert subscribed the sum of £80, was performed upon, for the first time, this morning; divine service commencing at six o'clock. Notwithstanding the extreme inclemency of the weather, the church of St. John was nearly filled in every part, the whole of the principal inhabitants of the town being present. The Musical Service included the "Cantate in D," by Dr. G. J. Elvey, the Anthem "Sing we merrily to God," by Dr. Crotch, and the Coronation Anthem, "Behold! O God, our Defender," composed for the Coronation of her Majesty, by Dr. Elvey, who presided at the organ. The vocal parts were sustained by the gentlemen and choristers of St. George's Chapel, the whole of whom were present. The prayers were read by the Rev. Mr. Bentley, one of the assistant curates. The old organ, which formerly belonged to St. George's Chapel, was presented to the parish church by George the Third, upwards of 50 years ago.

PRINCE ALBERT.—It is rumoured, and we believe upon good authority, that the title of *King-Consort* is about to be conferred upon his Royal Highness Prince Albert. This, we presume, would be preliminary to a demand for an increased grant. It is said, also, that there will be a brevet on the occasion.

MR. BARON GURNEY.—We regret to state that the learned baron continues confined to his bed at Brighton, very seriously ill.

LADY LYNDBURST'S SOIREE.—Lady Lyndhurst has issued cards for her first *soirée* to the foreign *corps diplomatique* and their ladies, &c. on Tuesday next, at the noble and learned lord's mansion in George-street, Hanover-square.

THE EARL OF DERBY.—The venerable Earl of Derby continues in improved health at Knowsley Hall, Lancashire. The Hon. Colonel and Mrs. Stanley are staying with his lordship.

THE EARL OF MORNINGTON.—We regret to state this venerable nobleman is daily growing weaker, and little or no hope is now entertained of his recovery.

EARLDOM OF PANMURE.—A petition of Mr. W. Maule, praying that her Majesty will be graciously pleased to adjudge and declare "that he has right to the title, honours, and dignities of the Earldom of Panmure, and Lord Brechin and Navar," was presented by command of her Majesty on Tuesday to the House of Lords, and it was referred to the Committee of Privileges.

MARRIAGE IN HIGH LIFE.—The Lady L. Fitzmaurice, only daughter of the Marquis and Marchioness of Lansdowne, was married on Monday to the Hon. Henry Howard, M.P., son of the Earl of Suffolk and Berkshire.

CHURCH, UNIVERSITIES, &c.

OXFORD UNIVERSITY. Feb. 10.
In a convocation holden this day, the Rev. Frederic Wade, M.A., of Trinity College, Dublin, was admitted *ad eundem*.

At the same time a Congregation was holden, when the following degrees were conferred:—

Masters of Arts: The Rev. William Rogers, Exeter; Rev. John Acres, Lincoln.

Bachelors of Arts: Frederic George Blomfield, Bialol; Alfred Richard Myddleton Wilshe, Pembroke; George Charles Benn, Merton.

In the same Congregation, Mr. Daman, of Oriel, was nominated by the Junior Proctor, to be a public examiner in *Literis Humanioribus*.

THE UNIVERSITY OF OXFORD AND THE TRACT NO. 90.—At nine o'clock yesterday evening the Proctors announced to the Vice-Chancellor their intention to exercise their right of veto and negative the proposed decree respecting the tract No. 90, which was to have been submitted to Convocation. The short notice for so important a measure is said to be the reason which has induced the Proctors to take this step. Mr. Gladstone, M.P., and Dr. Hook will, it is said, attend Convocation, and register their votes against the proposed measure for degrading Mr. Ward.

Feb. 12.
The following gentlemen have been elected Proctors for the ensuing year by their respective societies:—

Senior Proctor.—Rev. Thomas Harris, M.A., Fellow of Magdalene College.

Junior Proctor.—John Thomas Henry Peter, M.A., Fellow of Merton College.

Feb. 13.
At the Convocation, on a scrutiny, the number of votes were, for Mr. Ward, 586; against him, 777. For the second proposition: for the degradation of Mr. Ward, the votes were for the degradation, 569; against it, 511. The third proposition, for the condemnation of Tract 90, was then negatived by the Proctors.

CAMBRIDGE UNIVERSITY.

(From our own Correspondent.)

At the last congregation the following degrees were conferred:—

M.A.—Thomas Brown Foulkes, Queen's College; Thomas Peckstone, Trinity College; Thomas T. Leece, Caius College.

L.L.B.—James Mules, Trinity Hall.

B.A.—Samuel W. King, Catherine Hall; William Gilder, St. John's College; Frederick Bliss, Trinity College; G. Head, Trinity College; H. Nichols, Trinity College; J. M. Lukin, St. Peter's College; J. F. Ogle, Jesus College; E. T. W. Probyn, Caius College; W. Sloane Evans, Trinity College.

Augustus Frederick Birch, has been admitted a Scholar of King's.

The Rev. D. S. Hodson, B.A., Corpus Christi, has been appointed Head Master of Bolton Grammar School; and Lorenzo Smith, B.A., of Emmanuel, Master of the Lower School, Manchester.

The Dean and Chapter of St. Paul's have presented the Rev. R. S. Bower, M.A., to the rectories of St. Mary Magdalen and St. Gregory by St. Paul's, in the city of London, vacant by the promotion of the Rev. John Saunders, M.A., to the rectory of St. Luke, Old street.

THE BISHOP OF ELY.—His lordship still continues in a very precarious state; and it is thought by his medical attendants that should the slightest relapse unfortunately take place, a fatal result may in all probability be expected. His lordship suffers very much from a violent and frequent cough. His medical attendants are one or other constantly by his bed-side, and in addition to those called in, Dr. Haviland, the regius professor of physic in the University of Cambridge, was sent for in the commencement of the attack.

METROPOLITAN NEWS.

OFFICIAL CHANGES.—We believe it is arranged that the Hon. W. B. Baring succeeds Sir Edward Knatchbull in the office of Paymaster General to the Forces; and, as we have already stated, Lord Jocelyn succeeds Mr. Baring at the Board of Control.

CABINET COUNCIL.—A Cabinet Council was held at the Foreign Office on Thursday. The council was attended by all the Ministers.

QUEEN'S COUNSEL.—The following gentlemen are to be raised to the rank of Queen's Counsel:—Messrs. Lee, Parry, and Wood, of the Equity Bar; and Messrs. Humphrey, Hayward, Butt, Russell Gurney, and Montagu Chambers, of the Common Law Bar.

CALEDONIAN BALL.—The anniversary ball of the Caledonian Society of London took place at Willis's Rooms, St. James's, on Thursday, the 13th instant. The assembly consisted of upwards of five hundred elegantly dressed persons. About sixty visitors appeared in fancy costumes, but the national Celtic garb predominated among the members of the Society.

NEW ZEALAND COMPANY.—On Thursday a special general meeting of the proprietors was held at the office, Broad street Buildings, for the purpose of receiving a report of the affairs of the company, and of adopting measures thereon, in pursuance of the adjournment from the 30th of January last. Mr. Somes, M.P., the Governor, presided, and there were present Mr. Mar Joribanks, M.P., Mr. Mangles, M.P., Mr. Hutt, M.P., Mr. G. Lyall, jun., Mr. Jeremiah Pilcher, late Sheriff, Mr. George Robins, and several other directors and governors. The proceedings being opened, the report was read by the secretary, being the 17th of the directors. The details were confined to the dispute between the company and the Colonial Secretary, and to the conduct of Government in relation to the colony. The report concluded by recommending the adoption of a petition to Parliament, and by expressing a hope that there the company would receive that justice denied to them by the Colonial Secretary. Mr. Somes, M.P., the Governor, next censured the conduct of Lord Stanley in very severe terms, and observed that if Lord John Russell had been in power the state of things would be quite different. Mr. George Robins also censured the conduct of the Colonial Secretary, observing, that although a Conservative, he would give the Whigs every credit for the attention which they had ever paid to the interests of the company. It was finally settled that a petition should be presented to Parliament, praying for redress.

LONDON AND BIRMINGHAM RAILWAY.—On Wednesday the twenty-third half-yearly meeting of the proprietors of this company was held at the Euston station—Mr. George Carr Glyn in the chair. From the report, it appeared that the revenue for the half year ending December 31, amounted to £456,477, of which £450,479 was derived from the ordinary traffic, and £5968 from interest on the employment of cash balances and from rents. The charges amounted to £182,543, of which £96,413 was for working the line, and £86,130 parish rates, Government duty, &c. The ordinary traffic exceeded the amount in the corresponding half year of 1844, by £18,122. The charge for working it was less by £273, making the comparative rate of half-yearly charge to receipt as £21 8s. 1d. per cent. in 1844, to £22 7s. 3d. in 1845. The net proceeds, £273,904, added to the surplus of the preceding half year, £15,937, left a clear profit of £289,841, and on this amount the directors recommended that a dividend of £5 be again declared on every £100 of the company's capital stock, leaving a rest of £47,093 to the credit of the current half year. The report was adopted, and resolutions were passed authorising the directors to lease the Churnet line, by which a direct communication would be made with Manchester, and also to lease the Trent line; also authorising the directors to construct a branch line from Dunstable to the London and Birmingham line at Leighton Buzzard. A resolution was also passed, empowering the directors to purchase the West London Railway. Five retiring directors were unanimously re-elected.

SNOWBALL FIGHT WITH THE POLICE.—On Wednesday hundreds of persons collected in the New Kent road, to witness a most extraordinary affray with the police. Some boys were throwing snowballs at each other, when a constable of the P division seized one of the lads, about twelve years of age, for the purpose of conveying him to Southwark-bridge station-house. In a few minutes a mob collected, and among them several boys, some of larger growth, who instantly commenced an attack on the man in authority. Another constable also ran to the assistance of his brother officer, when a general attack by snowballs was made on them. One of the constables took charge of the prisoner, while the other endeavoured to take some of the elder delinquents, but they were too nimble and effected a safe retreat, joined by the boy who had been first captured. The constables then gave up all hope of capture, much to their discomfiture. It may be as well to mention that the fine, if convicted, is 40s., for throwing snowballs in the public thoroughfares.

MORTALITY OF THE METROPOLIS.—The number of deaths during the week ending February 8 was 1018, the proportion being 510 males to 508 females, showing a considerable increase over the average of the last five years, which was 963; 491 being males, and 472 females. In the first class, including epidemic diseases, there is an increase of four as compared with the weekly average of the last five years; 33 deaths have occurred from small-pox, 27 from measles, and 34 from scarlatina during the week, all, with the exception of 11, being under the age of 15. The deaths from diseases of the lungs, including bronchitis and asthma, amounted to 336, exceeding the average by 44; and there is an increase in deaths from violence, privation, cold, and intemperance, the average being 26, but the number during the past week is 33.

ANOTHER SHIP ON FIRE.—On Wednesday afternoon, a fire broke out on board the brig King of the Netherlands, Captain J. Pain, lying off the Surrey Canal, Rotherhithe. It originated in the fore cabin, in consequence of the overheating of the stove. There being a large number of sacks and sacking in that portion of the vessel, it was speedily wrapped in flame, and at one time it was feared that the brig would have been totally destroyed. Several persons on shore instantly put off to render assistance, and after some trouble they succeeded in confining the flames to the cabin, but they were not extinguished until a considerable quantity of sacks had been destroyed, the cabin burned round, and the bulk-head seriously damaged by cutting away. The present is the third ship that has been on fire in the river Thames during the week. The vessel belongs to the Steam Towing Company.

COUNTRY NEWS.

REPRESENTATION OF LEWES.—The Hon. Henry Fitzroy arrived at Lewes on Monday evening, and immediately issued an address to his constituents. The hon. gentleman commenced his canvass early next morning. Mr. George Daring Kemp (son of the late Mr. Thomas Read Kemp, formerly a member for this borough) has just issued an address; and Mr. Sumner Harford also made his appearance on Wednesday. The election is fixed for next Monday.

OPENING OF THE ROCHESTER AND GRAVESEND RAILWAY.—The Rochester and Gravesend Railway was opened on Monday with the usual formalities, and, notwithstanding the intense severity of the weather, a considerable number of passengers passed up and down during the day, whilst the lookers-on mustered in strong force at the various points of the line where the train was visible.

BUCKINGHAM ELECTION.—On Monday Sir T. Fremantle was again elected for Buckingham, without opposition. When declared duly elected, Sir T. Fremantle returned thanks, and said he could assure the electors that he had not ventured to aspire to so high a post as the one which he then had the honour of filling, which was one of the highest in the government of Ireland, and second only to that of Prime Minister (hear); but there were frequent occasions, both in public and private life, when they were obliged to submit to the wishes and judgment of others. It was under some such circumstances that he had accepted the office that had been offered to him. (Loud cheers.) He would be always at his post, and when he ceased to do so he would cease to be their representative. (Loud cheers.) He was personally unacquainted with Ireland; but having been a member of the House of Commons for seventeen years, and having taken part in the legislative measures connected with that country, he felt the greatest interest in its prosperity. Taunts had been thrown out that the English people disliked the Irish. Nothing could be more unfounded. (Hear, hear.) A more warm-hearted people did not exist than the Irish (cheers); treat them with kindness, and you would make them friends. Ireland was an integral part of the empire, and was to be treated like the counties of York or Cornwall. Unfortunately there did exist in that country a strong distrust of the British Parliament, British rulers, and the people. He, however, did not despair of seeing the day when the people of that country would look to the union with this kingdom as their best safeguard. (Loud cheers.) Everything must be done to conciliate the people of Ireland, laying down the rule that the legislative union should be maintained, the Church upheld, and the laws respected. They were prepared to hold out the right hand of friendship to their fellow-subjects, and make friends with them. They might fail, but it would not be for want of honest intentions or active exertions.

STAMFORD ELECTION.—We stated last week that the nomination for Stamford would take place on Monday. On that day Sir G. Clerk was returned without opposition. Sir George acknowledged the honour conferred upon him in suitable terms. The Whig papers state that when Sir George made his appearance on the hustings in the morning, hundreds of snow balls were thrown at him; and, after the election, the hustings were pulled down by the mob, who followed his carriage, but were kept off by a strong party of special constables; they continued, however, to pelt him with snowballs. The ceremony of "chairing" was soon brought to a close, they add, and Sir George was glad to take shelter at the hotel where the committee sat, for the showers of snowballs continued unabated. He had scarcely alighted before every decoration was taken from his carriage; and when he made his appearance on the balcony to return thanks, he was again attacked with snowballs, which prevented him from uttering more than a few words at a time. Several windows in the hotel were broken. On leaving the balcony, Sir George good-humouredly told his friends in the room that he never expected such treatment from the inhabitants of Stamford, who, on former occasions, had evinced so much kindness towards him.

SUDDEN DEATH OF M. MIDDLETON, ESQ., OF HOPTON HALL.—We have to announce the untimely death of Marmaduke Middleton, Esq., of Hopton

Hall, Derbyshire. Mr. Middleton met Mr. Meynell Ingram's hounds at Radborne, on the morning of the 6th instant, and had the misfortune to be thrown from his horse twice in the field. By the latter fall his head was injured, and he was obliged to leave the hounds, and return to Radborne, where he remained about two hours; he then felt himself so much recovered as to consider himself able to ride home. He had proceeded about four miles, accompanied by Mr. John Hall, of Hopton, when (as is supposed from the effects of his recent injury), he again fell from his horse, and pitched his head on the hard and frozen road. He was taken up quite insensible, and conveyed to the nearest house, Mr. Webster's, Mercanton Hall, where every possible care and attention were shown to him, but he survived only about an hour. An inquest was held last Saturday—the jury returned a verdict of "Accidental death."

A CHILD BURNED TO DEATH BY HER MOTHER, IN CUMBERLAND.—Last week we gave an account of the barbarous murder of a little girl, named Sarah Ann Crosby, by her mother, Jane Crosby, who burnt the child to death. Some additional particulars of this frightful transaction were elicited at the Coroner's Inquest. The investigation commenced a little after noon on the 30th ult., and was continued till midnight on Friday, when it was adjourned till Monday last, the 10th instant. William Crosby, the father of the murdered child, is a labourer in husbandry, and is only at home on the Saturday evenings and Sundays. He has a wife named Jane, and two daughters, namely, Mary and Sarah Ann, aged respectively about 12 and 7 years, the only issue of his marriage with his wife. Mrs. Crosby is a woman of most dissolute character, passionate, and greatly addicted to drinking spirituous liquors, and taking laudanum in large quantities. The murdered child was the greater favourite of the father (the mother having poisoned the mind of the elder with indulgences and threatenings), and was in the habit of telling him on Saturday nights what her mother had done during the week; and on that account the mother, from time to time, manifested a most inveterate and inhuman dislike and hatred to her younger child. She frequently most cruelly beat her, and turned the poor child out of doors at bed time and kept her out all night, and on several occasions threatened to put an end to the child's existence. In order to carry this barbarous and unnatural resolve into effect, on Tuesday evening, the 28th ult., she made up a large fire in the kitchen of her own house, with the determination of sacrificing her child in the flames prepared by her own hands. For reasons only known to this wretched woman herself, she stripped off all the child's clothes and hid them in a hole behind the inner door and in the ash-midden, and, having done so, took the child by its legs and arms, and literally roasted it to death. One side of the face was much burnt and the eye nearly out, and its breast and neck and back were most shockingly burnt. It appears that the child, on being held over the fire, had turned its head on one side, and thrust it forward, and by doing so one side of the face was more burnt than the other, and that she had thrust her breast against the red-hot bar, which accounts for the severe burn on that part of the body. The wretched woman then took the child off the fire, and held her on her knee by the fire till life was nearly extinct, the little innocent faintly asking her other sister for a drink of water. On calling in the neighbours she said that Sarah Ann (the deceased) had set herself on fire while she (the mother) was absent at a farmhouse about two miles off, and made other incredible excuses. A person was sent to the farmhouse to inquire if Jane Crosby had been there that day or evening, when it was ascertained that the tale was a fabrication. Mr. Carrick, the surgeon, was sent for, but on his arrival he found the child in a state beyond reach of medical aid, and the poor child died about two next morning. On examining the child's shift it was found to be burnt about the neck and back, but the burnt places had been made with a red-hot poker, and the other articles of dress not being visible suspicion became stronger, especially when the prisoner's former bad conduct was taken into consideration. Richard Weston, one of the witnesses, searched the house, and found the clothes hidden in a hole of the wall behind the inner door. On the first investigation of this horrid murder, the elder girl seemed reluctant to give her evidence freely, alleging that if she told the truth she was afraid of her mother, who would ill use her. At the adjourned inquest she gave her testimony more frankly. Fourteen witnesses were examined, and the jury returned a verdict of "Wilful murder." The wretched woman was committed to Carlisle gaol to take her trial at the next assizes, which commence on the 22d instant. This shocking tragedy has given rise to the greatest excitement at Lammonby and the surrounding neighbourhood, and, indeed, throughout the whole of Cumberland. The village of Lammonby is near Greystoke, about eight miles and a half north of Penrith.

OPENING OF THE MARYPORT AND CARLISLE RAILWAY.—The opening of the above-named line of railway, from end to end, a distance of 23 miles, was celebrated on Monday with great ceremony. Most of the shops in Maryport were closed, and business was in a great measure suspended throughout the town. The first train from Carlisle arrived at Maryport at twelve o'clock, and the whole of the carriages were literally crammed with passengers, who, on their arrival, were greeted with the firing of cannon, and by the loud and hearty cheering of the immense crowd assembled at the station yard. The train started from Maryport at one o'clock. Now that this railway is opened out, a large accession of passenger traffic is anticipated, in consequence of its connection with the Newcastle and Carlisle line at the latter town. The company are preparing a number of third class carriages, covered and seated, for the conveyance of passengers along the line at the rate of 1d. per mile.

POLICE.

THE DESTRUCTION OF THE PORTLAND VASE.—On Tuesday, the young man named William Lloyd, who was brought before Mr. Jardine, at Bow-street, on Friday evening, was placed at the bar for final examination, charged with wilfully and maliciously destroying with a stone the inimitable vase in the British Museum. The vase, which was valued at £1000 and upwards, was described as being the property of his Grace the Duke of Portland. Sir Henry Ellis, the principal librarian, and several gentlemen connected with the museum, were on the bench. Mr. Bodkin appeared for the prosecution. The prisoner, on being placed at the bar, appeared perfectly composed, and by no means evinced any symptoms of mental aberration. Mr. Burnaby, the chief clerk, addressing him, said:—When you were last brought before the court you refused to give your name: do you now choose to give it or not?—Prisoner: I do not wish to give my name. Mr. Burnaby, by direction of the magistrate, then read over the evidence given by Mr. Edward Hawkins, the keeper of the antiquities in the museum, at the former examination. Mr. Bodkin asked the prisoner if he wished to say anything to the charge preferred against him?—The Prisoner: I merely wish to say this, that I do not wish to give my name, as it might involve other persons in my disgrace.

—Mr. Bodkin: Without making any mention of persons connected with you, what have you to say to the charge of having broken the vase?—Prisoner: Only this, that I had been indulging in intemperance for some days, from the effects of which I had only partially recovered when I entered the museum, and being consequently in a state of nervous excitement I was afraid of everything I met with, and under such impression I acted in the manner I have done, and for which I was then taken into custody; but I did not commit the act through any design or evil intention whatever towards any person.—Mr. Bodkin said he had the honour to appear on behalf of the trustees of the British Museum, upon whom the principal duty devolved in prosecuting in the case on the part of his Grace the Duke of Portland, who had kindly permitted the property in question to be placed in the museum for the inspection and gratification of the public. It was deemed necessary since the last examination that a medical gentleman should wait on the prisoner, for the purpose of examining into the state of his mind, and the report made left no doubt of the prisoner's sanity. It was, therefore, with a view to protect property of this description, and affording a public example, by punishing a person convicted of such a flagrant act, that the present course was adopted. It was much to be regretted that such was the defective state of the law upon such offences, that it was difficult to meet the present charge by anything like an adequate punishment; however, it was provided by the 24th section of the Wilful Damage Act, "that if any person shall unlawfully or maliciously commit any damage, injury, or spoil to, or upon, any real or personal property whatever, either of a public or private nature, for which no remedy or punishment was therein before provided, every person being convicted thereof before a justice of the peace, should forfeit and pay such sum of money as should appear to the justice to be reasonable compensation for the damage, injury, or spoil so committed, not exceeding the sum of £5.—Mr. Jardine to the prisoner: You have heard what has been stated. Have you anything to say?—Prisoner: Whatever punishment you feel it your duty to inflict upon me I shall feel the consolation that it is really deserved.

—Mr. Jardine: Are any of your friends in attendance?—Prisoner: None whatever.—Mr. Hawkins, one of the superintendents of the British Museum, proved that the shade, which was worth about £3, the fragments of which were lying on the floor with the fragments of the vase, was the property of the trustees of the museum.—Mr. Jardine said that was the most perfect and legitimate course for the trustees to pursue, and called upon the prisoner to pay the amount of the glass shade, having wilfully and maliciously destroyed it.—Prisoner: I assure you, Sir, it was not done maliciously.—Mr. Jardine: In the eye of the law it was a malicious act on your part, and I cannot help, in my humble capacity, observing with the counsel, that the act of parliament providing for such offences is very inefficient, which prevents my entertaining the case respecting the destruction of the vase against you for the present; but for the destruction of the glass shade I shall put the law in full force, and order you to pay the sum of £3 forthwith, and in default be committed to hard labour in the House of Correction for two calendar months. The prisoner is an Irishman, apparently about 21 years of age, of respectable appearance, and rather under the ordinary stature. He is of a fair complexion, thin, and apparently somewhat delicate; the weakness of his voice in some measure justifies this last impression. He was well dressed, and wore a great coat. There was something strange in his looks and manner at the first examination, but on Tuesday we could trace nothing in either to justify the notion that his mental faculties are deranged. In the course of Thursday Mr. Jardine received a letter from some unknown person, by whom the sum of £3 was enclosed, with directions that it should be paid to the Trustees of the British Museum, to whom compensation was awarded to that amount, for the destruction of the glass case surrounding the Portland Vase. The magistrate therefore gave directions for the immediate release of the delinquent, who was as promptly set at large by the Governor of Tothill-fields Prison.

POSTSCRIPT.

VISIT OF HER MAJESTY TO THE DUKE OF NORFOLK.—On Thursday, at eleven o'clock, her Majesty and Prince Albert left the Palace at Brighton, to lunch with the Duke and Duchess of Norfolk at Arundel Castle. Her Majesty was attended by the Countess of Mount Edgcombe. At a quarter-past twelve the Royal carriage was seen approaching the Marine Hotel, Worthing, when the bells struck up a merry peal, and as soon as the Royal carriage drew up, her Majesty was greeted with the most respectful loyalty. The Duke of Norfolk had arrived previously, for the purpose of accompanying her Majesty to Arundel. Her Majesty conversed freely from the carriage window with the noble duke, who, the moment the horses were put to, proceeded by the side of the Royal carriage on horseback. The Duchess of Norfolk received her Majesty on alighting from the Royal carriage. Twelve of the duke's servants appeared in state liveries of crimson and gold—each suit cost 25 guineas. This visit of her Majesty is preparatory to a three days' visit in the summer. Her Majesty returned to Brighton at a quarter to six to dinner. Her Majesty and his Royal Highness Prince Albert have engaged to take luncheon with the Earl of Liverpool at Broxton Park, near Cuckfield. The noble earl has invited a large circle to the *déjeuner* to meet his august visitors.

FOREIGN.

LATER NEWS FROM THE UNITED STATES AND MEXICO.—The mail steamer Cambria has arrived, with New York papers to the 31st December. The American House of Representatives, and also the Senate, are busily occupied in discussing the Oregon territory question, and in both houses a bill has been brought in for the actual establishment of a territorial government over that country. In Texas the movements are towards annexation to the United States. The news from Mexico is most important; but there seems to be a doubt as to its correctness in some points. Santa Anna is said to have been defeated and captured by Bravo and Paredes, and some accounts state positively that he has been shot. On a careful examination of the various accounts, we have little doubt but that the news of his defeat will turn out perfectly correct. It is stated that letters from Mexico, dated the 9th ult., arrived at Tampico by express on the night of the 13th, giving the important intelligence that a desperate battle had been fought on the plains of Appan, between Santa Anna on the one side, and Bravo and Paredes on the other, which ended in the total rout of the former, who was captured in trying to make his escape. Five hundred men are reported to be killed, and General Paredes had been despatched by Bravo in pursuit of the routed troops of Santa Anna. Bravo himself was on the march back to Mexico, with his august prisoner.

RAILWAY COLLISION.—A collision of trains took place on Tuesday night on the Brading Junction Railway, near the Felling station, but happily none of the passengers were hurt.

Accounts have been received of the death of Sir James Dowling, Chief Justice of New South Wales.

LONDON FEVER HOSPITAL.—Yesterday (Friday) the annual meeting of the Governors of this hospital was held at the Freemasons' Tavern, Thomas Everett, Esq., Treasurer, in the chair. The gross receipts, including dividends and £200 from the City of London, amounted to £2305 6s., and the expenditure figured £1823 11s. 11d. The funded property exceeded £3726. The report was adopted, and the Rev. E. Scovell, whose eloquent appeal on behalf of the Hospital last Sunday added £154 6s. 4d. to the fund, was elected Honorary Governor. Thanks were then voted the Chairman, and the meeting adjourned.

BURNING OF THE BARK, "HENRY."

On Monday afternoon, about 3 o'clock, the bark Henry, which was taking in coals off the East India Dock buoy, near Blackwall, was perceived to be in flames. The light but steady breeze which prevailed all day fanned the flames into such fierceness, that all the efforts of the astonished crew to check their progress were soon rendered ineffectual, and, as the only means of saving the adjacent shipping from the spread of the fire, it was resolved to scuttle and sink her in deep water. The vessel was accordingly cast off from her moorings with all promptitude and attached to a couple of steam-tugs, which proceeded with her down the river below the Folly-house, where the warping cables caught fire, and it then was found necessary to tow her aground on the north flats, near Greenwich Point, and leave her to her fate. In less than an hour from the first appearance of the fire, her hull, masts, and rigging were wrapped in sheets of flame, which threw up immense jets of sparks in continuous showers to the leeward, rendering any approach to her impossible. The heat was too intense, and the crashing and splitting of her timbers were audible at a considerable distance, and for miles up and down both shores of the river the blazing ship was clearly visible, the awful appearance of the fire being increased and an indescribable effect added to its terrors by a fall of snow, through which it loomed with a lurid glare, like that of a wintry sunset, and now and then flashing through the drift so brightly, that the light was reflected by the frozen service. It was said that the Great Britain was at one time in danger from her proximity to the Henry. Hundreds of spectators assembled all along the shores, despite the snow, the cold, and mud, and numberless boats rowed around the bark, as near as the heat would permit them. The scene was, altogether, singularly striking; the contrast between the dark hull, enveloped in wreaths of fire and smoke, and the smooth surface of the snow in the background, dotted over with the black figures of the eager crowd, who were struggling on knee-deep, to get a nearer view of the ship, producing a most extraordinary effect. At half-past four o'clock her foremast, which seemed like a smouldering pillar of fire, was alone left standing, the main and mizen having gone over the sides, a mass of embers, some time previously; and shortly afterwards her deck fell in, throwing up a vast fiery column into the air, which descended slowly, like the remains of innumerable rockets, sparkling and hissing through the snowy shower. Then her hold became visible, glowing with the intensity of a furnace, and spouting out sheets of flame through the ports. This unfortunate bark, which was chartered for her Majesty's service during the Chinese war, was the property of the Messrs. Fletcher, of Limehouse, and was considered a very superior sea-going vessel, having been built at Quebec of the best materials only four years ago. Had she been properly scuttled, a step which Captain Rowland, the harbour-master of Greenwich, suggested as soon as he arrived, she might have been saved, or, at least, a greater portion of her hull might have been made available to her owners; but, it is said, that the holes which were made for that purpose were not bored at a sufficient depth below the water, and that the sudden lightning of the ship, consequent upon the loss of her masts and spars, raised the hull so much that the scuttle-holes were brought clear above the surface, and, consequently, the only thing that could be done was, to tow her out of the course of the channel, and put her aground. The master, Mr. Finlayson, was not, it is said, on board at the time, but the crew exerted themselves to the utmost to avert the sad calamity. This fire, which has consumed property to the value of £10,000, is reported to have originated in the fore hold, where a heap of shavings saturated with turpentine, which had leaked through from the vessels of some painters who were at work at the time, was set fire to by a boy, and in a moment spread into so fierce a flame as to defy every effort to overcome it. The bark, which was of more than 500 tons burden, was about proceeding with a cargo of coals to the *depôt* of the Oriental Steam Navigation Company at Aden. It is believed that she was uninsured. The hull of the ship continued to burn during the whole of the night, and it was not until the tide had risen on the following morning at an early hour, and gradually filled her, that the flames were in any way got under. On the tide receding, measures were promptly adopted by Capt. Rowland, the harbour master, and her unfortunate owner, to weigh that portion of the hull which had escaped destruction. Although she was completely destroyed to the water's edge, shipwrights were immediately set to work in stopping up the aperture made to scuttle her, which they effected with every success. On the return of the tide she floated. On undergoing a survey, the whole of her interior seems to have been consumed, and her sides down to within a few feet of the coppering, and, notwithstanding she must have been covered by the water for a short time, some beams at her bow were absolutely found on Tuesday afternoon, at four o'clock, to be still on fire. A careful inquiry has been instituted respecting the origin of the calamity, and, according to the latest information, it appears that some boys were engaged in cleansing one of the after between decks, when one of them accidentally dropped a lighted candle which he held in his hand amongst some shavings, pieces of tar, wood, old rope, &c., and those inflammable articles almost instantaneously igniting, fired as instantly the whole of the after part of the ship.

The keel, or remains, of this unfortunate ship, was safely weighed on Tuesday evening's tide, and during the night was towed round to the Union Dock, Limehouse, where she will be broke up, so as to preserve her new coppering. The wreck, as may be conceived, presents a most desolate appearance, the whole of her interior being consumed. The ill-fated vessel stood at Lloyd's, A 1, having only been built at Quebec, in 1840, and has wholly been engaged in the Indian trade.

THE LATE MURDER AT BETHNAL GREEN.—James Tapping, who stood committed for the alleged wilful murder of Emma Whiter, by shooting her with a pistol, was formally brought up before Mr. Bingham, at WORSHIP-STREET, in order that the depositions, which had been previously in part taken, might be read over in his presence. On being placed in the dock, the prisoner made an effort to display the same reckless demeanour as prisoner apathy he had exhibited from the commencement of the proceedings, the frequent convulsive action of the muscles and other in symptoms of internal agitation clearly manifested that his haughty manner was altogether assumed. The depositions, which were having been read over by the chief clerk, and attested by the Mr. Bingham told the prisoner that if he wished to offer anything to the charge he was ready to hear it; but Mr. Vann answered that he had advised his client to reserve his defence until he was his trial.—On mounting the steps of the prison van the prisoner was overcome by emotion, and trembled violently; but almost covering his self-possession, he turned round, and with an s bravado raised his hat to the mob. The action was followed by shout, accompanied by a loud cry from some of his friends which was complied with by a majority of those assembled, either to justify the notion that his mental faculties are deranged.



A RUSSIAN FAMILY ATTACKED BY WOLVES.

FINE ARTS.

THE RUSSIAN MOTHER AND THE WOLVES.*

The Wolves! Oh, God! for a spark of soul
To gift that horse with sense,
To bid him speed in this dreadful need
This agony intense!
Away! away! like a lightning flash!
Fast as the drifting wind!
With the Angel-Spirit of Hope before,
And the Stride of Death behind!

Oh, dread! a horror is on my heart,
My blood runs thin and chill!
Have I a sin, so black within,
That bringeth me this ill?
Father above! oh, pour thy love
Down on this weary way,
And save my babes from a death of blood,
And bless them while I pray!

Away! Ha! ha! but the fearful fright,
Hath struck through the creature's veins;

Rushing along with an impulse strong—
No curb! no trace! no reins!
Go! fly! Oh God, that shuddering sound,
That worse than murderous growl!
My babes, you are prest to a mother's breast:
Despair! despair!—they howl!

They howl! they howl!—their withering cry
Strikes all my heart with cold!
On! on! like the fires that sweep the sky;—
Oh, agony untold!

Bless them, and guard them, God above!
Away from these mad wild things;
And hallow a desperate mother's love,
And give to her danger wings!

* This appalling scene, is copied from a large mezzotint, by Jazet, from a celebrated picture by Schopin. The scene represents one of the vast snow-clad steppes of Russia, and its gloomy vegetation, also capped with snow. The group in the foreground is truly terrific: a band of wolves, "roused by wintry famine," are about to seize upon the affrighted travellers; they are the Vekvoturians, or mountain wolves, of the black variety: the terror of the family in the sledge, and the action of the horse, are powerfully depicted. In the distance, is seen another band of wolves, attacking a wild horse of the steppe.



OF THE BARQUE "HENRY," OFF BLACKWALL.—(See preceding page.)

DESTRUCTION OF THE PORTLAND VASE.

"Or bid mortality rejoice or mourn,
O'er the fine forms of Portland's mystic urn."
DARWIN.

In our late impression of last week, we gave an account of the destruction of this invaluable specimen of Grecian art, by a miscreant visitor at the British Museum. The details of the wanton act will be found elsewhere recorded in our present journal; and now that the precious gem of art is irreparably destroyed, it will be interesting to the reader to see its beauty picturesquely commemorated in our pages.



BOTTOM OF THE VASE.

This exquisite production was originally known as "the Barberini Vase," from its having been, for more than two centuries, the principal ornament of the palace of the Barberini family. It was purchased of Sir William Hamilton by the Duchess of Portland, since which it has been known as "the Portland Vase." It formed the gem of the Portland Museum, which was sold by auction, in separate lots, by Messrs. Skinner and Co., on Monday, April 24, 1786, at Privy Gardens, Whitehall; and, in a preserved copy of the catalogue, we find the following note, made at the time of the sale:—

"The most celebrated antique vase, or sepulchral urn from the Barberini Cabinet at Rome. It is the identical urn which contained the ashes of the Roman Emperor Alexander Severus, and his mother, Mammæ; which was deposited in the earth about the year 235 after Christ. It was dug up by order of Pope Barberini, named Urban VIII., between the years 1623 and 1644. The materials of which it is composed imitate an onyx



THE PORTLAND VASE.

was found lying. We have engraved this plate below, and appended the references.

- A, The Monte del Grano, beneath which was the sepulchre.
- B, Tomb of Alexander Severus and of Julia Mammæ.
- C, The ancient entrance to the tomb.
- D, An aperture in the mass of the work of the vault, by which an entrance was obtained into the sepulchral chamber where the marble sarcophagus was found.
- E, The coffin, or sarcophagus.
- F, An entrance to a small chamber, with no other outlet.



HANDLE OF THE VASE.

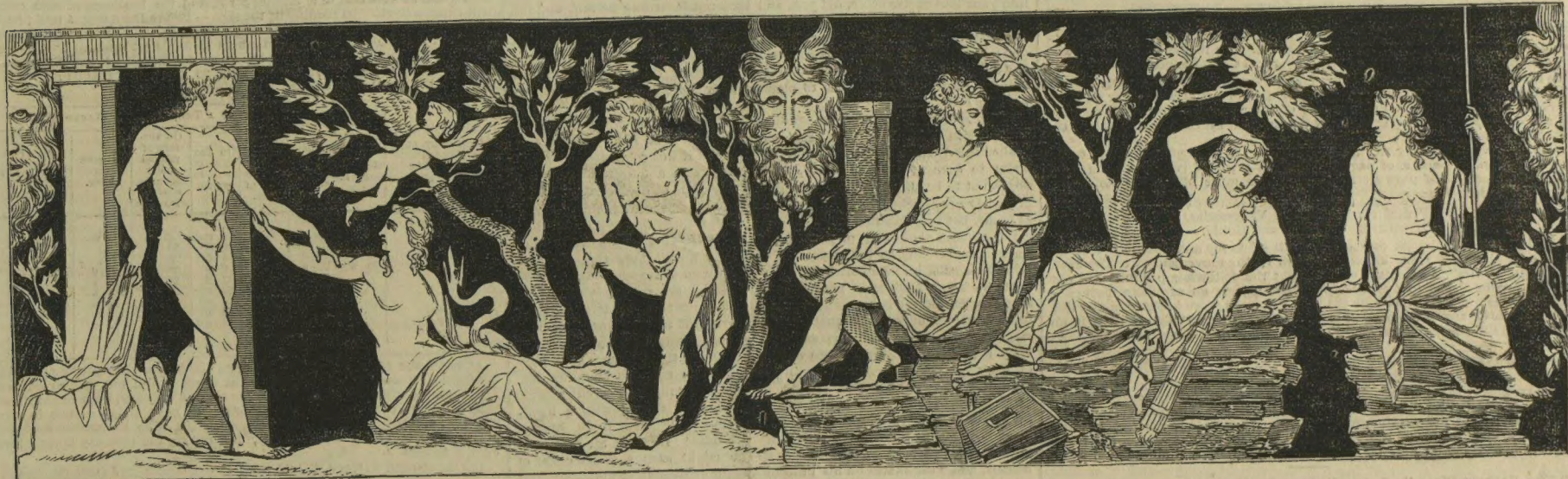
G, The arch of the chamber, at the level of the ground, broken in order to take out the sarcophagus, which was lowered by cranes, and drawn through the ancient entrance.

H, Dotted lines, showing the plan of the upper chamber.

I, A modern Casino, on the summit of the mount.

Probably few relics of antiquity have excited greater interest than this celebrated vase. There are various opinions as to its production. Mr. Wedgwood considered the figures to have been made by cutting away the external crust of white opaque glass, in the manner of producing the finest cameos, and that it must have been the labour of many years.

There have been likewise many conjectures as to the figures on the vase; among which the speculations by Dr. King and Dr. Darwin are not the least striking. The latter occupies seven quarto pages of notes to the poem of the "Botanic Garden," illustrated with four plates, the actual size of the vase and figures. We must, however, pass by this lengthy disquisition

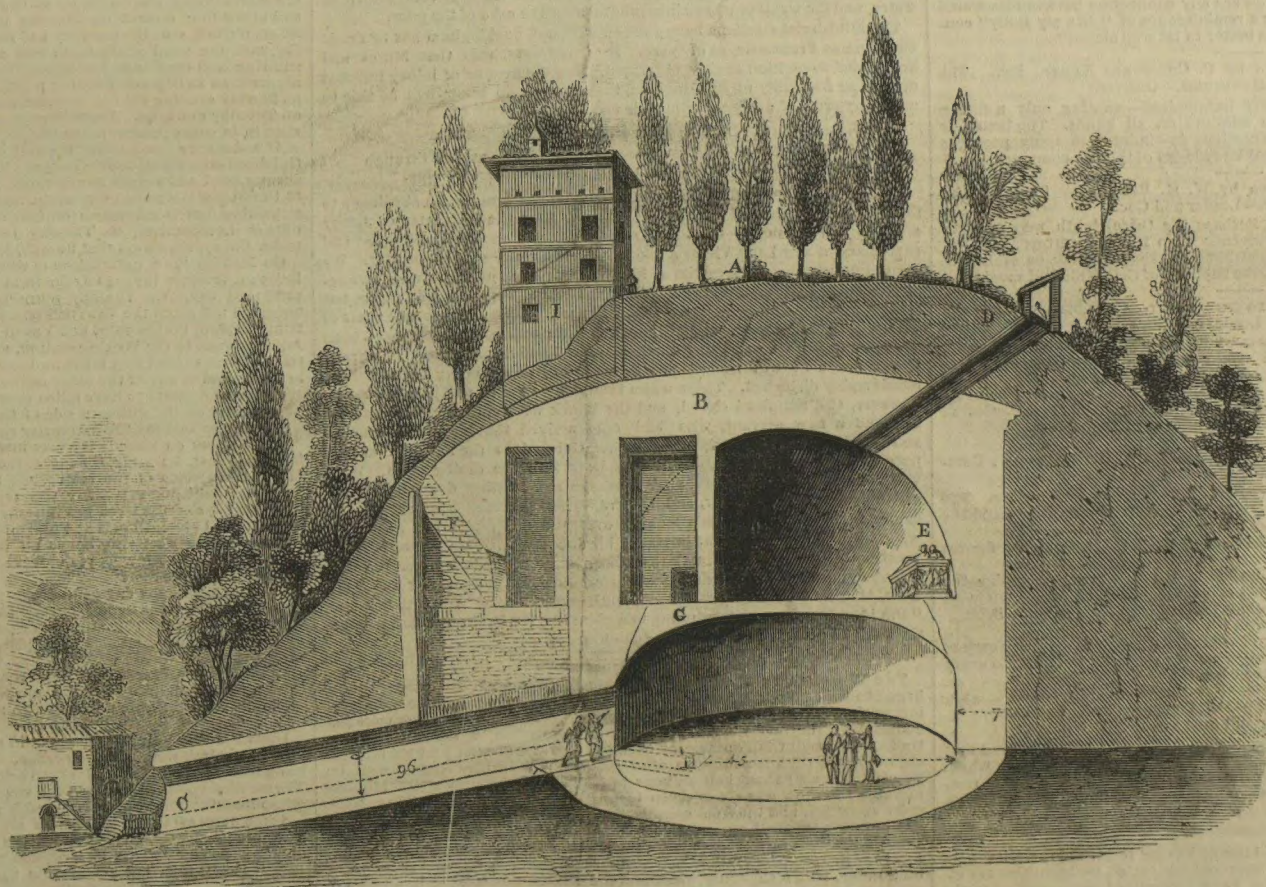


BAS RELIEFS ON THE PORTLAND VASE.

the ground a rich transparent dark amethystine colour, and the snowy figures that adorn it are in bas relief, of a workmanship above all encomium, and such as cannot but excite in us the highest idea of the arts of the ancients. Its dimensions are 9½ inches high, and 21½ inches in circumference. A more particular account of it may be found in 'Montfaucon's Antiquities,' Vol. 5, B. 2, Chap. 6; in 'Bartoli's dell' Sepolchri Antichi,' in 'Brenal's and Mission's Travels,' and in 'Winckelman on the Arts of the Ancients.'

At this sale the Vase was purchased by the Duke of Portland, for the sum of 1029 guineas, and was deposited by his Grace in the British Museum in the year 1810. It adorned the centre of the ante-room (No. 9) at the head of the stairs leading from the gallery of antiquities: it was placed upon an octagonal table, beneath a glass case.

The first information we have respecting this vase is, that it was found, about the middle of the 16th century, inclosed in a marble sarcophagus, within a sepulchral chamber, under the mount called the Monte del Grano, about two miles and a half from Rome, on the road leading to Frascati. This sepulchral chamber appears to have been the tomb of the Emperor Alexander Severus, and of his mother Julia Mammæ; and the vase was, probably, a cinerary urn belonging to the sepulchre. Bartoli, in his work on Roman and Etruscan sepulchres ('Gli Antichi Sepolchri,' 1704), has given a sectional representation of the Monte del Grano, with the hollow sepulchre within, and the spot in which the sarcophagus



SECTION OF THE SEPULCHRE IN WHICH THE VASE WAS FOUND.

or the following brief description by a correspondent of the *Morning Chronicle*:—

"There are three scenes, one on either side of the vase, and one at the bottom. The first represents three exquisite figures seated on loose piles of stone under a tree near a ruined column, the capitol of which lies, among other disjointed stones, at their feet. The centre figure is a female reclining, apparently greatly exhausted, or dying. She is supported by her left elbow, and in her left hand she holds an inverted torch, while her right hand is thrown over her drooping head. On her right hand is the figure of a man, and on her left the figure of a woman; both have their backs towards the reclining figure, and their faces are turned to her. They are both, apparently, in deep thought, and are resting on their arms. The other scene represents a figure passing through a portal with great timidity, and going down into a darker region, where a beautiful female is waiting with outstretched hand to receive him. She is seated with her feet towards an aged figure, who is resting his chin on his hand, and who has one foot raised on a column and the other apparently sunk into the earth. Between the knees of the female is a large and playful serpent. Preceding the first figure, and above the female, is a cupid, who is beckoning him to advance. The first figure appears exceedingly anxious to take with him a cloak or garment, which he is holding, and which adheres to the side of the portal through which he has just passed. In this scene there are two trees, one of which bends

GAETIES AND GRAVITIES OF THE WEEK.

Ex nihilo nihil fit may be all very well to quote as a bit of classicality, but, if we are not entitled to doubt its mathematical veracity, what is to account for the play of "Much Ado about Nothing"? The fact is, that instead of nothing being made out of nothing, there is so much made out of it every day, that we might begin to fancy that nothing was at the bottom of everything, only that a few substantial and palpable matters rise up before us with a reality and identity which convince us that they are not sprung *ex nihilo*.

For all this, since the opening of the Session, that same vague old gentleman, Nothing—whom the schoolmaster defined as "a footless stocking without a leg"—has had as large a share of the public business in the English Parliament as any of the realities of gain or grievance that are gathered around us; and the discussions in St. Stephen's, up to this present writing, have been about as dull, desultory, profitless, and uncertain, as the most unnerved system could desire. Galvanic rings have been extensively worn out of doors, but there has been nothing approaching to a shock in the Legislature, where excitement, usually so prevalent—at least with an Opposition—seems to have fled from the benches, and vacated his seat in favour of the Gallic bore, *ennui*.

We take the solution of this still-water riddle to be either that it is the calm of the session preceding the storm, or that the country has been waiting the Minister's financial statement, John Bull never caring to busy himself much about anything else until he has ascertained exactly what they are going to do with his money. And this is very plausible and very prudent of John Bull; only that, in the meanwhile, as we said before, the nation is dreadfully hard up for excitement.

While the debates have been remaining in this eminent state of stagnation (one slice of bankruptcy and a chop of divorce from Brougham—one suggestive lecture on taxation and revenue from Montagu—and two or three spurts of conversation from M.P.'s who do not yet appear to have definitely settled what they are going to do), Mr. Wakley has proved himself the merriest and the wisest of the national convalescence, by the railway lavished upon barristers entrusted with the lines of rail. He gave these long-robe boys a decided wig-ging for speaking not so much against Time as to Eternity! He seemed to think the railroad from London to York would not be half as long as one of the speeches opposed to it—and although we believe he has opposed the new prison discipline, as regards criminals, yet, in reference to barristers, he evidently—and small blame to him—longs for the establishment of a more silent system than the one at present adopted. Good faith, if the truth were told, there is too much law everywhere, and that very seldom of the best.

Part of the railway discussion, however, has been of a good wholesome character—that, we mean, which scouted the impropriety of any member of the Board of Trade Committee, being a proprietor of railway shares. Ploughshares as many as you please—but railway shares—no—they would be *infra dig* property—more *infra dig* than ploughshares. It is quite a fact that the Stock Exchange gambling on the *Gazette* days—when the new reports are issued, and some Solons profess to have had information in advance, has been frightful—and it must be confessed that some individuals have made enormous sums of money by *never being in the wrong*! The debate has had, we hope, the good effect of checking this, and putting anonymous information *hors du combat*.

Talking of the quantity of bad laws (adverted to a paragraph above), what a pleasant heap of it is occasionally to be found in Crown offices. The silk gown of the Solicitor-General, we should imagine, must have been considerably ruffled in the Smith distillery case. Eh! Mr. Thesiger! your *swanier in modo* must have been a little disarranged. What! your first great official case? Three hundred thousand pounds the prize in jeopardy to the Crown, and the trial thrown overboard just as you were getting in *medias res*! A bad rule—an insufficient rule—a rule that was no rule! So, then, you went into your law-exercise office, did you, and took out the *wrong permit*, and the trial has consequently not gone off with the *spirit that was expected*? Pie! Solicitor-General, fie! But we beg your pardon. The Court exonerated you; Mr. Kelly, whose forbearance was rather generous, did not accuse you; and society is left to its conviction that whenever there is an atrocious blunder committed *Nobody* is to blame. Poor *Nobody*! he is worse than *Nothing*!

What is Sir Peter Laurie about that he does not put down suicide by drowning in the Parks? What an *ice* man he would be if he only accomplished this. The weather may be very cold, but if not cold enough for the water to *bear up the human body*—under it skates and infirmities, people ought not to be allowed to go skating, weather or no! Besides, the feelings of society are shocked. It is pleasant enough to read the "Arabian Nights" at home, but it makes one nervous to see a *lad in*—in St. James's Park. Nor can the round-about way of parting with existence—the *Serpentine* mode of destruction resorted to in the park of Hyde, be a whit more pleasant to a delicate sensibility. And after all, a little common sense and ability would settle the whole business. Your humane societies are mighty virtuous institutions, and there is, perhaps, still more virtue in their ladders and their ropes—but we have heard that the surest way of not requiring the stomach-pump is not to take the poison—and that prevention is better than cure. Why are people allowed to go on the ice, while there is any possibility of their going *in*? A positive injunction from the proper authority, the disobedience of which should be made as much a civil offence as breaking the shrubs, or injuring the Queen's ducks—with a handful of policemen to enforce the regulation—would save more human lives than all the humane societies in Park-dom! Now, if Sir Peter the philanthropist would have this seen to—he might earn a whole collar of medals, and wear skates on his buttocks for the remainder of his days. But if he does not attend to the matter, it is time that society did, for these park duckings and drownings are disgusting satires upon the folly, recklessness, and obstinacy of mankind. However, we hope the ice may soon return to water, and the weather merge into mildness for the sake of the poor.

The Ministerial elections have gone off well, and Buckingham has returned Sir Thomas Fremantle, as of yore. It is, however, said that Moses and Son intend to petition against his return, upon the ground of injury inflicted upon their fraternity of Buckingham, inasmuch as no tailor will be able to make any profit if every voter has his *mantle free*!

Trelawney in Cornwall gave way to Carew, While Stamford has chaired Sir George Clerk—and all through The snows that kept white, though the nose became blue.

We find that Carus Wilson is to be brought up to London, in obedience to the rule of the Court of Queen's Bench, and that the magnates of Jersey are so far brought to their senses, touching the influence and supremacy of our Lady Victoria and her Chief Justice at Westminster. We know nothing about the merits of Mr. Wilson's imprisonment, which we believe was for contempt, and seems to have been of very cruel duration, but we do know something of Mr. Wilson himself. Once he was the giant of Fleet-street, Chancery-lane, and Lincoln's Inn; and so tall as to have been as much *looked up to* as any gentleman in London. A friend of ours at whose house he was accustomed to visit, had one evening his household considerably disturbed. There was a loud double knock at his door, which, however, still remained closed, and the knock was repeated. He rang his bell, and a new servant, who had only arrived that day, answered it, and was desired to open the street door. Going into the hall for that purpose, she uttered a shriek, and rushed back into the dining room. What was the matter? "Oh, Lord, Sir," cried the half-fainting domestic, "there are thieves at the door, Sir, and they're trying to break in—they've got a ladder, Sir, and one of them's looking over the fanlight." The gentleman went out himself to open the portal of his don icile, and his servant uttered another shriek when she saw Carus Wilson standing quietly upon the step, and stooping his head at least a foot before he could pass under it. "Oh, Lord, Misses," she added, as the gentleman shook hands with the monster, "I'm blest if master isn't bringing in a giant!" We have not heard whether the valor of Jersey was obliged to raise his roof.

THE WEATHER IN MANCHESTER.—Shortly after noon on Sunday, snow began to fall at Manchester, and continued during the afternoon and evening, with the wind strong from the southward. The railway trains were not considerably beyond their time, with the exception of the Birmingham trains. The mail train on Sunday evening, due at a quarter past six o'clock, did not reach till a few minutes after seven. The Burnley (coach) mail, on Sunday, was also about half an hour late, owing to the snow. On Monday morning the snow was six or seven inches deep; and, during the day, some more snow fell, and the frost continued, with a south-east wind. On Tuesday morning the frost was not so severe, and in the afternoon there were some indications of a thaw, but in the evening the frost became more confirmed. In Liverpool and the neighbourhood there was a heavy fall of snow on Sunday, with a southerly wind, and the ground was covered to a depth of six or eight inches on an average; and where it drifted it was knee-deep. The railway arrivals there were regular and to time, with the exception of the Birmingham trains, one in the afternoon being half an hour, and another in the evening nearly an hour beyond time.

over the female figure, and the other over the aged one. The scene on the bottom of the vase represents another figure, either male or female, in a curious and cumbersome dress, with its finger pointing to its mouth, and on its head there is a Phrygian cap. Above this figure is the foliage of a tree. This figure is on a larger scale than the others, but not so well finished or so elevated. Aged heads with ugly ears, like those of quadrupeds or satyrs, are represented on the handles.

"In all probability, these scenes represent the progress of initiation into the Eleusinian mysteries, and the vase was very likely originally used to hold the holy water for the lustration of the candidate for the office of priestess, whose initiation is thus described in *Universal History*, vol. 6, p. 3: 'A certain number of young women were brought up at the expense of the republic with all possible care, in order to be employed in the ceremonies to be performed at Eleusis. They were kept confined in the Thesophorion, a public building in Athens, watched by persons set over them to guard their virtue. After this they went in procession to Eleusis, and there passed a whole day at the feet of the statue of Ceres, in fasting and prayer.'

"Now, in the first described scene, the centre figure appears greatly exhausted by watching, and the inverted torch which she holds in her hand, the flame of which is just expiring, is a symbol of the exhausted state of nature. The other two figures are apparently her guards, the female figure holding a rod or sceptre as an ensign of authority. The second scene represents the priestess fully initiated into the sacred mysteries, which is denoted by the serpent, the ancient symbol of wisdom and immortality, seated at the entrance of the temple, accompanied by the hierophant. She is leading a candidate forward to initiation, who is tightly holding a portion of his robe, which probably represents his lingering attachment to humanity. The figure at the bottom represents the priestess in her full robes of office, with her finger to her mouth, being the attitude of silence, denoting that she is enjoining the candidate to keep unbroken the mysteries into which he is about to be initiated."

We have engraved the Vase entire; one of the heads from whence spring a handle; and the bottom; together with the bas reliefs around the entire Vase.

We learn from the *Penny Cyclopædia*, that a mould of the Vase was made by Pechler, the gem engraver, while it was in the possession of the Barberini family; and, from this mould, a certain number of casts were taken by Mr. Tassie, who afterwards destroyed the mould. Mr. Wedgwood made a small number of copies of the Vase, which were sold at about 25 guineas each, and which were distinguished for the admirable skill displayed in their production. The moulds employed for these copies are, we believe, still in existence.

NEW MUSIC.

THE MULBERRY TREE. Song. Written by S. W. PARTRIDGE, Esq. Composed by HENRY LAKE. Leader and Cock.

There is considerable and original merit in this song, and sung even to liberally well it must prove effective. We have no objection to the harmonies, but, to the eye at least, the notation would be better if the frequently occurring D sharp and A sharp were written E flat and B flat. The chords in which they occur are *diminished sevenths*.

"OH! MOTHER, HEAR THY POOR BLIND CHILD." Song. Written by HARCOURT RUSSELL, Esq. Composed by F. ROMER. Leader and Cock.

A very clever composition in the canzonet style. Here and there, however, there are some careless harmonies, as at bar 3, page 5, and between bars 2 and 3, stave 4, on the same page.

NATURE'S GENTLEMAN. Song. Written by Miss ELIZA COOK. Composed by HENRY RUSSELL. Leader and Cock.

Neither very original, nor very elegant; the six eight canterspoils the words, which should have been set to common time.

THE DREAM OF THE REVELLER; OR, THE THREE HOUSES. A Descriptive Cantata. The words by CHARLES MACKAY, Esq. The music by HENRY RUSSELL. Leader and Cock.

Very well imagined both by author and composer. A little more of German severity, however, would not have been amiss—the picture is an awful one, and should not be too lightly coloured. The levity of the abandoned is too happy—there is not enough of reckless despair in its character.

NO. 1. SWEET MAIDEN. Canzonet. Composed by GEORGE J. O. ALLMAN.—No. 2. I SAW THEE WEEP. Canzonet. The Poetry by LORD BYRON; composed by G. J. O. ALLMAN.—Treagar and Co., Cheapside.

To the first of these Canzonets is prefixed a symphony of two pages length, reminding us of the introductory *tulle* of a grand concerto; after which a "ridiculous *mus*" appears, in the shape of a poor and ill-managed melody. The accompaniments at page 6 break the musical Priscian's head most unmercifully.

No. 3 is a very flowing and graceful melody, if its rhythm were not distorted in bars 6, 7, and 8, of page 2, and bars 7 and 8 (which should have been incorporated) of page 3. Nothing can be more offensive than errors against musical prosody.

CHAMBER TRIO, for Pianoforte, Violin, and Violoncello, by W. STERNDALE BENNETT. Coventry and Hollier.

This is a most delicious composition, full of fancy and learning, feeling, and exquisite taste. We know not which of the movements we like best. Perhaps the first is the most elegant, but the following portions are not without their claims to a rivalry. The serenade is an exquisite morceau; the finale is the portion we like the least; there is more pretension and less effect than in any other portion of the trio, but take it altogether it is an honour to the musical taste, learning, and genius of old England.

THE AMARANTHE WALTZ (Why not Waltzes?) By H. CRAVEN GRIFFITHS, R.S.M.

These waltzes exhibit no novelty that can be approved of. Every little girl in the world that, by ear, knows the difference between tonic and dominant harmonies could write a thousand of them. In fact, they are female compositions. The affixes of R.S.M. to the composer's name, we confess ourselves at a loss to understand.

"THE FAIRY'S WELL." Song. Written by HENRY LOVELL. Composed by N. J. SPORLE.

This song, it is stated, is founded on the old proverb "It is better to let well alone." For the life of us we cannot see any connection between its words and the proverb, but in the music a reminiscence of "Nix my Dolly" convinces us that "it would have been better to let well alone!"

REMEMBRANCE. Ballad. Written by C. CHAMBERS EAMES, Esq. The Music by LOUISE BENDIXEN.—Ollivier.

A beautiful melody, most artistically harmonised—wanting only a fitting opportunity of being heard to be admired on all hands. The theme is graceful and its treatment unexceptionable—indeed, in some passages highly creditable to the contrapuntal knowledge of the fair composer.

SPIRIT OF AIR. Cavatina. Written by W. H. BELLAMY. Composed by GEORGE LINLEY.—Leader and Cock.

"Graceful and flowing and free." Perhaps the three-eighth movement in D is too much like the ordinary crescendo of an Italian Overture, but altogether it is a pleasant composition, although, perhaps, it may be said there is some slight discrepancy between the rhythms of the words and music.

CHAMBER TRIOS. No. 7. AWAY TO THE WEST. Composed by CHARLES E. HORN. Leader and Cock.

It is with pleasure we hail the appearance of any new composition by Horn. There is always a quaintness and originality about his conceptions which are delightful. We should like to see a Grand Opera by him. The present Trio is fanciful in the extreme, and, with delicate treatment, must produce a beautiful, fairy-like effect. Professional vocalists will read its beauties at sight, and we recommend it as a charming study to all Amateurs.

LAZY MOON, LAZY MOON! Duet. Written by W. H. BELLAMY; Composed by CHARLES E. HORN. Leader and Cock.

An elegant and imaginative composition—full of fancy and feeling. The passage commencing with "There's a violet bank" is very sweet, and the whole brilliantly worked up to the end.

THE MUSICAL BOUQUET. Composed and adapted to M. Coulon's figures and dance by F. LANCELOTT.

The only amusing part of this publication is the title page, on which the following enumeration of the names of great composers, winds up with rather a touch of the bathos:—Bellini, Donizetti, Handel, Mozart, Beethoven, Rossini—JULIEN! *Finis coronat!*

We have received a vast number of other Polkas, but really are weary of noticing them. Their common-place monotony must be fatiguing to every one whose musical ears are not in their heels.

LA SYLPHIDE, Polka, (original?). Composed by T. BROWNE. Leader and Cock.

There is no great originality of feature in this music. If it be true that Orpheus once fiddled to the Brutes, we are quite sure that the figure which they danced was the Polka. We cannot exactly say what *his* music consisted of, but if it were not better than the alternate tonic-dominant, two-trill, jog-trot, modern Polka, it must have been sorry stuff indeed.

PHILHARMONIC CONCERTS.—Mr. Lumley having refused his permission to allow Signor Costa to conduct the approaching series, we learn that the directors of this national (?) institution have determined upon sending to the Continent for a gentleman to wield the *baton*. Oh! Sir Henry Bishop, Sir George Smart, Messrs. Cooke, Bennett, and fifty others, the old saying is true, that "no one is a prophet in his own country."

'TIS JUST THE HOUR!—BALLAD.

Oh! come, oh! come—'tis just the hour—
The dew's 'gin to weep,
And the birds are asleep—
And the stars in the skies
Have but half open'd eyes—
They cannot see us in our bow'r!
Oh! come, oh! come—'tis just the hour!
Oh! come, oh! come—'tis just the hour—
The whispers of Love
In the dark of the grove,
Are sweetest and best,
As the bird has confest
That woe the Queen-Rose in her bow'r!
Oh! come, oh! come—'tis just the hour!
Oh! come—oh! come—'tis just the hour,
The lone Waterfall
In the valley, is all
That far off awakes—
And a sweet murmur makes
As it sprinkles the heath with its show'r!
Oh! come—oh! come—'tis just the hour!
Oh! come—oh! come—'tis just the hour
For lovers to tell
All the secrets that dwell
In the depths of their souls,
While the Moon fondly strolls
In search of Endymion's bow'r!
Oh! come Love! 'tis just the hour!

OBSERVATIONS ON THE WEATHER.

On the evening of the 11th day, I was prepared to expect an intense cold, by the circumstance of a temperature at 7 P.M. being at 21 deg., and at 11 P.M. being 15 deg., with clear sky, and the temperature continued to decline till half-past 7 o'clock in the morning of the 12th (Wednesday), when the thermometer read 14 deg. below zero, or 33° below the point of freezing water, a degree of temperature of the air protected from radiation less than any I have ever before seen. Immediately afterwards, I found my dry bulb thermometer to read zero, and my wet bulb to read 1 deg. below zero: the reading of the minimum thermometer was at zero, and so was also the reading of the maximum thermometer; another thermometer whose scale only calculates to 1 deg. could not be read, the mercury being all in the bulb, so that most certainly the temperature of air at this time was at a point 32 deg. below the freezing point of water; the reading of a thermometer on snow was 12 deg. below zero; that of one placed on flax, cleared of snow, was 12½ deg. below zero; that of one on long grass, cleared of snow, was 6 deg. below zero; that of one on long grass, under snow, was 26 deg.; so that the effect of the snow was to keep the grass warm by 32 deg.; the reading of one on the surface of ground, under long grass covered by snow, was 28 deg. These readings are lower than any that have ever been seen in this country from natural causes, as far as I know; they are certainly lower than I have ever before seen them; the instances which seem to approach those low readings are 1838, January 20. On this day I saw the thermometer at zero; the previous instance occurred on February 9, 1796, but the evidence of this is not very good, as the effects of radiation, which was then scarcely acknowledged, were not taken into account. The phenomenon, it appears, may be expected to take place about once in twenty years in this climate. During the day I took the following observations:—At 8 A.M. the reading was still at zero; at 9 A.M. it read 4 deg.; at 10 A.M. it read 4 deg.; at 11 A.M. it was 9 deg.; at 12 M. it was 10 deg.; and at noon it was 21 deg. This rise of 11 deg. of temperature took place in one hour. At 1 P.M. it was 25 deg.; at 2 P.M. it was 29 deg., being the highest point attained. The temperature then began to decline, and at 6 P.M. the temperature passed 20 deg.; and at 7 P.M. it was 18 deg., with a clear sky, but a thick atmosphere. Some clouds then collected, and at 9 P.M. it had decreased to 19 deg.; at 10 P.M. it was 20 deg., and it continued to increase throughout the night, and the temperature now (half-past seven o'clock on Thursday morning), is 25 deg. The following observations I took during the day, which will be best told in a tabular form, and the headings of each column will explain itself. In reading it, the sign—before the 8 deg. 5 min., implies that the temperature was 8½ deg. below zero, or 40½ deg. below the point of freezing. By subtracting the numbers in the first column from those in the second column, the effects of the snow for keeping the grass warm are shown: thus, at Feb. 12, 7h., 9 deg. from 33 deg. show that 24 deg. was the effect of the snow on the grass.

READING OF A THERMOMETER PLACED

Month, Day, and Hour of Reading the Thermometer.	On long grass clear of snow in shade.	On long grass clear of snow under snow.	On long grass clear of snow in rays of sun.	On flax clear of snow in shade.	On surface of ground under long grass covered with snow.	On snow in shade.	On snow in rays of sun.	In snow
Feb. 12th.								
8 23 A.M.	d.m.	d.m.	d.m.	d.m.	d.m.	d.m.	d.m.	d.m.
8 45	6 0	26 0	..	8 5	28 0	..	..	15 0
9 5	9 0	26 0	..	5 5	28 0	..	..	18 0
10 10	10 0	26 0	..	9 0	28 0	9 0	..	19 0
10 20	..	26 2	24 2	17 2	28 0	15 0	..	19 5
10 50	..	26 2	32 0	20 0	28 5	18 5	..	22 0
11 20	..	27 0	40 0	23 0	28 5	22 0	..	25 0
11 30	..	28 5	45 0	23 0	29 0	23 0	40 5	24 0
Noon.	..	30 0	46 0	24 0	30 0	24 0	33 0	24 0
1 0 P.M.	9 0	33 0	..	8 5	..	11 0	..	24 0
7 0	17 0	33 0	..	17 0	..	..	..	24 0

At noon the temperature was 21 deg., and it was pleasant by contrast to the feeling; even when the air was at zero, it did not feel so very cold. There was no motion in the air, and the air was very dry, both circumstances tending to prevent that sudden abstracting of heat which is felt in windy weather, and the air with much moisture in it. The barometer during the previous day had been rising rapidly, and during the 12th day it varied from 30in. 2 to 30in. 3.

13, Dartmouth Terrace, Blackheath.

JAMES GLAISHER.

RETURN OF SEVERE WEATHER.

The cold weather has returned with great severity. During Sunday night the thermometer was down to 29 degrees, showing three degrees of frost, and about four o'clock on Monday morning it snowed for about an hour. At six o'clock A.M. the mercury had risen to 31 degrees, with a dense cloudy sky, and the wind south-east; and at nine o'clock it again commenced snowing, and continued throughout the day, the mercury at part of it being higher than 32 degrees (freezing point). The snow storm which commenced on Sunday evening did not terminate until between three and four o'clock on Tuesday morning. Travelling by stage coaches and other land conveyance is, in consequence, much impeded.

At a distance from town the fall of snow has been more copious. The Guildford coach was unable to reach town on Monday, being detained by an accumulated snow-drift about three miles on the London-road. The road to Dorking was almost impassable, and Mr. Broad, the proprietor of the only remaining four horse coach on that road, was compelled to stop for some time at Leatherhead, on Tuesday morning, until a passage was cleared, under the apprehension that he would not be able to continue his journey.

On Monday the accumulation of snow was so great on the South-Western Railway, that the luggage train from Southampton did not arrive in town until next day. On Tuesday morning the mail train, by the same conveyance, did not reach the Vauxhall terminus until half-past eleven, having the Southampton, Portsmouth, and Yeovil mails. The delay took place from the Andover-road to the Woking station, and for some distance the speed of the train did not exceed four miles an hour. There was no delay of importance in the arrival of any of the other railway trains.

The snow appears to have fallen most thickly in the counties of Essex and Suffolk, and on the southern side of the metropolis. During Tuesday night the frost was severe: the barometer slowly rising.

The weather on Wednesday was intensely cold, the wind blowing keenly from the east. During the night, the frost was most severe, and at break of day the streets of the metropolis had the appearance of sheets of ice, the pavement being extremely slippery. The snow which fell during the first two days of the week lies in some places four feet deep. This is the case on the Lammas lands at Fulham, which at high tides are usually under water. At the Receiving-house on Wednesday forenoon, the mercury, at 10 o'clock, was as low as 14 degrees—the lowest point it has reached this winter.

The fineness of the day caused the parks to be thronged, and thousands disported themselves upon the ice. In the Regent's Park the ice was in excellent condition. The number of persons who ventured on was upwards of 4,000. Several duckings took place in the course of the day, but none of any moment.

In St. James's Park the ice was very unsafe. This is always the case in this park; but, despite of this, there was a good number of skaters. The ice broke several times, and although many were immersed nothing serious occurred.

Upon the Serpentine the ice was in a bad state, but in the middle of the day the skaters were very numerous. No accidents occurred. In Kensington-gardens the number of skaters during the day was upwards of 1,000. The members of the Skating Club were there. Several of them went knee deep into the water, but were speedily got out.

Some parts of the river Thames are covered with masses of floating ice. Towards low water, on Thursday, the masses had accumulated to such an extent as to cause great interruption to the navigation, particularly in the Pool. It is somewhat remarkable that the great frost of 1814, on which occasion the Thames was frozen over and a fair held thereon, commenced on the 8th of February, (the day when this severe weather commenced) and continued for six weeks. On Thursday about noon-day there was a heavy fall of snow, but in the course of the afternoon it rained, and at night, although it was bitterly cold, there was a thaw.

NATIONAL SPORTS.

"You see this business with a sense as cold
As is a dead man's nose."—*Winter's Tale.*

Such too, shall be this, our discourse—a winter's tale; to the narrative whereof we sit us down with a proboscis as frigid as the summit of the Jura. Adopting, however, the spirit of our thesis morally—*apropos* of the gelid, we address our consideration to the philosophy, which, so far from regard ing sport cordially, sees it with a perception "a little less than kind." Sorrows—which means the whole family of the dismal—we are told, never make their appearance single-handed, but like an invading army. Thus—while that stu pendous question, "To be, or not to be," is hanging over the whole *genera* which fine gentlemen have designated game—every hour brings an argument to bear upon it. The organs of combativeness everywhere sound the charge to the souls and bodies of the poachers. And who shall wonder at it? "Give them a punch on the head," says Mr. Grantley Berkeley. "Give them letters of *marque* against the pheasants," cries Mr. Bright; "and are they not heirs by Nature to the hares?" These are the maxims which bring the onslaught on the keepers. Giles Scroggins has the instinct of woodcraft under his prize jerkin, burning as fiercely as ever it raged beneath the corset of belted knight. Also hath he, in like manner, a taste for glory, and the flavor of a Michaelmas "bird," so that with the prospect—nay, certainty, of a fight or a pheasant before his eyes, what wonder, as the poet says, that he "affects the shade." Woe, woe, to the watcher or the rooster that falls in his way. Listen to his war-song at what time the earth puts on her sables, he issues from his pecu liar Tom and Jerry, chanting—

Here's a hand for them that love me,
And a fist for them that hate;
And whatever fowl 's above me,
Here's a blaze—at any rate.

In the papers of the day, as the phrase goes, there was, during the week, a paragraph to the intent that Sir John Cope's hounds recently drew blank (their ordinary luck, indeed, in Dian's lottery) all the covers belonging to his Royal Highness Prince Albert, and that the keepers stated they had been put to death at the instance of their Royal master. Of course, it was not true, but the report was not the less mischievous on that account. We all know how Peter Pindar's ostler applied his confessor's hint about the efficacy of pomatum in the matter of horse's teeth. So many a burly son of the Ball, who whilom would as soon have thought of shooting a fox as shaking hands with a Frenchman, will very likely take a slap at Charley, and follow *shoot* with the Queen's husband. But the heaviest blow of all levelled against the *fera natura* is that their cause has been espoused by the lawyers. A dreadful letter all over Coke upon Littleton saw the light a day or two since, wherein the writer showed that the moment you abolish the right of property in partridges, there's an end to the principle in reference to the great sources of our national revenue, and that no man will be entitled to call a drop of run ning water his own! That, legally, he shall never from that hour slake his thirst—save at "pond or lake." What a pity the discovery was not made sooner—will not Mr. Berkeley publish a second edition of his pamphlet, with this great fact for its climax?..... Seriously, if the question as to the policy of upholding the present system of Game Laws is to be anticipated, why is it not taken up in a manly spirit, and on honest grounds? No Englishman will be influenced in his opinion about them by the sophisms of the special pleader, or the platitudes of the pam phleteer. The rural sports of this country are the offspring of the national character. They are better protected by convention than they can be by any code devised by Lords or Commons. They belong essentially to the class of liberal pleasures—let their pursuit be liberal also. Scout the bastard *battue* from their list: let sporting restrictions be regarded as bonds of peace, made for every man's protection, and not as Pennsylvanian *bonds*, for no man's security. Away with your subtleties of black letter: do not the champions of our popular pastimes know that they merit their advocacy because they are the frank, free, boon resources of wholesome enjoyment? or do they, indeed,

"See this business with a sense as cold
As is a dead man's nose?"

TATTERSALL'S.

MONDAY.—The layers and backers were alike "passive," and the market, in consequence, exhibited little in the way of change, either in Chester Cup or Derby. All that we have to point out is a slight upward movement in the Era, St. Lawrence, and Pride of Kildare, and trifling decline in Obscurity, Celeste and Cataract. The Derby nags remain as before, with the exception of Kedger, Newsmonger, Mentor, and the Miss Whip colt. The Iron Mas ter's qualification remains in abeyance.

8 to 1 agst Irwin's lot	30 to 1 agst St. Lawr	(1)	45 to 1 agst Polgh-a-Ballagh, t
10 to 1 agst Semiseria	30 to 1 agst Pug		50 to 1 agst Coranna (t)
16 to 1 agst Obscurity	33 to 1 agst Winesour (t)		50 to 1 agst Seaport
17 to 1 agst The Era	33 to 1 agst Zanolli (t)		50 to 1 agst Milton (t)
23 to 1 agst Cataract (t)	33 to 1 agst Strathpey (t)		60 to 1 agst The Dean
23 to 1 agst Pride of Kildare	35 to 1 agst Extempore		66 to 1 agst Patriot
30 to 1 agst Celeste	40 to 1 agst Trueboy (t)		66 to 1 agst Yheoman ac Knac

6 to 1 agst Scott's lot (t)	30 to 1 agst Newsmonger (t)	40 to 1 agst Laird o' Cockpen
11 to 1 agst Alarm	30 to 1 agst Mentor	50 to 1 agst Connaught Ran-
13 to 1 agst Cobweb c (t)	30 to 1 agst Miss Whip c (t)	ger
14 to 1 agst Kedger	33 to 1 agst Ananias	60 to 1 agst Fuzbos
15 to 1 agst Idas	35 to 1 agst Iron Master	100 to 1 agst Adonis
19 to 1 agst Pam		

7 to 1 agst Lancashire Witch (t)	12 to 1 agst Rose of Cashmere	17 to 1 agst Miss Elis
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THURSDAY.—Business continues very languid at the Corner; indeed, with two or three exceptions, it would really appear that both layers and backers have determined to stay proceedings until the nags get off their straw beds. At present Semiseria, The Era, Celeste, Zanolli, St. Lawrence, Strathpey, and Extempore, are all that remain in force for the Cup; and Alarm, Cob web colt, Newsmonger, and the Miss Whip colt, for the Derby. Our price current, therefore, will be brief:—

9 to 1 agst Semiseria	30 to 1 agst Pride of Kildare	33 to 1 agst Extempore
16 to 1 agst The Era (t)	30 to 1 agst Strathpey	40 to 1 agst Trueboy (t)
27 to 1 agst Celeste	30 to 1 agst Zanolli	50 to 1 agst Polgh-a-Ballagh
25 to 1 agst St. Lawrence	33 to 1 agst Winesour (t)	

10 to 1 agst Alarm	25 to 1 agst Newsmonger	40 to 1 agst Doleful, the Pre-
13 to 1 agst Cobweb colt	33 to 1 agst Miss Whip c (t)	dicta colt
14 to 1 agst Kedger	35 to 1 agst Old England (t)	50 to 1 agst Anti-Repeater
16 to 1 agst Idas	40 to 1 agst Laird o' Cockpen	60 to 1 agst Columbus (t)
19 to 1 agst Pam	40 to 1 agst Iron Master	66 to 1 agst Fuzbos (t)

10 to 1 agst Maid of Orleans (t)	30 to 1 agst Lady Wildair.	
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FOOT RACE AT SLOUGH.—The long-pending foot-race for a sweepstakes of £25 each, distance one mile, between Jackson (the American Deer), Max field (the North Star), and Davies (the Welsh Chicken), came off on Tuesday afternoon at Slough. The road, which had been previously considerably blocked up by the heavy fall of snow of the night before, was cleared the whole distance by several men. The sweepstakes were won by Maxfield beating Davies by between 15 and 20 yards, and Jackson by upwards of 50 yards. It will be recollected that, a short time since, Jackson beat Maxfield in a three-mile race, without any apparent effort. Jackson also beat the celebrated Sheppard in an hour's match not long ago, performing in that time upwards of eleven miles. The mile on Tuesday was run by the winner in 4 minutes and 49 seconds. Considerable sums of money changed hands.

THE IRON TRADE.—The make of iron in the United Kingdom at the present time is near 1,400,000 tons annually. Scotland furnishes almost one-third part of the supply—being 450,000 tons annually, or at the rate of 9000 tons per week. But in the course of two months there will be nine new fur naces put in operation in the neighbourhood of Glasgow alone, and their combined yield may be calculated at 1350 tons weekly, or 70,000 tons per annum. Three new iron works have also been arranged for, which may be completed, and have twelve furnaces—the number contemplated—going within twelve months. They will give a yield, if at all successful, of 1800 tons weekly, or 93,000 tons by the year.

SUDDEN DEATH OF A LADY.—Mr. Higgs held an inquest on Tuesday evening at the King's Head, Crown-street, Oxford-street, on the body of Mrs. Elizabeth Harvey, aged 50, the wife of Mr. Peter Harvey, carrier, of Oxford-street. Joseph Hillier, assistant to Mr. Day, draper, High-street, Stepney, stated that on Friday evening, at about seven o'clock, deceased staggered into Mr. Day's shop, and said she thought she was going to have a fit, and asked him to send to Mr. Newington's, in White Horse-terrace, whither she was proceeding. Witness did so, but before any one arrived deceased had become senseless. Medical aid was procured, and deceased was removed to a private room and bled. She became apparently worse, and, by the surgeon's advice, she was placed in a cab, and conveyed to her own residence. Mr. Charles Simpson, surgeon, Cambridge street, Golden-square, stated he had attended deceased professionally. She was subject to apopleptic fits. Witness had advised that she should never go out alone. When witness was called in on Friday deceased was dead. She had been brought home in an open cab, and witness was of opinion that she ought to have been taken to the nearest hospital, where proper treatment would have been administered. Mr. Jacob Mason, of Torrington square, said he was at Mr. Harvey's when the cab containing the deceased arrived. She was not dead then, but expired a few minutes afterwards. The verdict was—"Died from apoplexy."

ACCIDENTS AND OFFENCES.

SUDDEN DEATHS.—Mr. Higgs held an inquest on Monday at the Green Man, Berwick street, Oxford street, on the body of Mr. Francis Walsh, aged thirty-three. From the evidence it appeared that the de ceased was related to Captain Pidding, an 'carried' on the business of a tea dealer at the premises of his brother, Mr. W. S. Walsh, who is a wine and spirit merchant in Berwick-street. On Friday evening deceased was left dozing by the counting-house fire, and was found dead in his chair the next morning. Verdict, "Died from apoplexy."—On Tuesday Mr. G. J. Mills held the following inquests on persons who had died suddenly:—At the Plasterer's Arms, Little Marylebone-street, Portland-place, on the body of Henry Burgess, aged sixty eight, formerly a coach master. De ceased had been unable to work for twenty-one years in consequence of rheumatism in the lower extremities, and on Monday morning last, between six and seven, his wife found him dead in bed. He went to bed the evening previously in his usual health. At the Half Moon, Clipstone-street, Fitzroy square, on the body of Eliza Castle, aged fifty six, of No. 98, Norton-street. She was out and well on Friday forenoon, but on her return home in the afternoon, she fell down in her room in a fit, and died three hours afterwards. At the Perserverance, William-street, Hampstead-road, on the body of Edith Sorwell, aged thirty-six, wife of a blacksmith, living in Mary-mews, close by. Deceased was out and apparently in good health on Friday morning. In the course of the day she was seized with sudden illness, which ter minated fatally in a very short time. The fourth inquest was held at the Devonshire Arms, Duke-street, Manchester-square, on the body of a female servant in the employ of Miss Duffell, residing in the above street. De ceased on Sunday went to repose on her bed, and not coming to the kitchen in time to prepare dinner search was made for her, and she was found dead in bed.—On Wednesday evening, Mr. Higgs Coroner for Westminster, held an inquest at the Royal Yacht, Stanhope-street, Clare-market, on the body of William Moss Gregory, aged forty-five, a lawyer's clerk, and brother of the well-known Barnard Gregory, of the *Satirist*. It appeared that deceased lodged at 119, Drury lane, and was subject to asthma. He partook of break fast on Sunday morning, and his landlady entering his room soon after wards, found him speechless lying on the sofa, and within five minutes he expired. The Jury returned a verdict of "Natural death."—Mr. Wakley held four inquests again on Wednesday, in the eastern part of his district, on persons whose deaths had been almost instantaneous. One was held in the parish of St. Giles's, on a glove-maker, named Ann Bennett, aged thirty-six, who dropped dead on Sunday evening, immediately after taking tea. Two others were held at the Windmill, Leather lane, Holborn, on the bodies of Mary Stagg, aged 65, wife of a compositor employed at Hansard's, and of Jane Sutton, aged six weeks. They were both found dead on Saturday morning in their rooms. The fourth inquest was held at the Wilmington Arms, Clerkenwell, on the body of Margaret Jones, aged sixty. She also died suddenly on Saturday night. In three of the inquests, verdicts of "Natural death" were returned, but the inquiry respecting the death of the child was adjourned for a *post mortem* examination. These sudden deaths were attributed to the abrupt change in the weather, from mild to severe.

A NEW MODE OF PASSING COUNTERFEIT COIN.—On Sunday, whilst a collection was being made at the doors of St. Clement's Danes for a char itable purpose, an elegantly-dressed female, about 40 years of age, and of lady-like manners and address, expressed her willingness to contribute a small sum towards the object sought to be benefited, but regretted that she had no small change in her possession, at the same time producing a sove reign from her purse, and offering to give 1s. 6d. if they would oblige her with the change. This request, after some delay, was complied with, and 18s. 6d. was handed to her, and having leisurely placed the silver in her purse she left the church. A short time after, the sovereign was found to be counterfeit.

ALARMING FIRE AT CHATHAM DOCKYARD.—About two o'clock on Tues day, a fire of an alarming character broke out in Chatham Dockyard. Hap pily, however, owing to the heavy fall of snow, the absence of wind, the presence of assistance immediately on the spot, a plentiful supply of water, and the praiseworthy exertions of officers and men—naval, military, and civil—the damage sustained, although extensive, is comparatively little to what might have been anticipated from the inflammable materials and their contiguity. The fire was first seen in a place called the Joiners' Pound, which was full of seasoned mahogany and other materials for ships' cabins, &c.; and very soon it had extended on one side to the joiners' shop, and afterwards on the other, to the treenail-house, over which is the school for the apprentices, forming a range of buildings on the east side. The roof of the joiners' shop was destroyed, and the building itself was entirely gutted; and all the bulkheads, &c., prepared for ships' building, with great numbers of joiners' chests of tools and fittings were consumed. The treenail-house was also gutted, and the roof of the building, with a great portion of the books, instruments, &c., belonging to the school, were com pletely destroyed. The schoolmaster's house, which is at the east end of the buildings, is also ruined. The schoolmaster and his family happily escaped without personal injury, and a large quantity of his property was saved, but of the whole range of buildings on fire scarcely anything but the tottering walls remain. As soon as the alarm was given the workmen flocked to the yard in great numbers, and by the well-planned arrangements which are made for such a casualty in the Royal service, the engines be longing to the dockyard were very quickly in full play. The officers and men from the various ships in the Medway were very promptly on shore, and engaged most actively in the suppression of the fire, &c. The troops of the garrison, to the amount of seven hundred, turned out on hearing the alarm bells, and with their engines, and headed by their officers, were also at the scene of conflagration in the shortest possible time. Considerable difficulty was experienced in keeping the flames from igniting the immense roof over the dock in which the Janus new steam-sloop de signed by the Earl of Dundonald, is fitting. Happily, from the quantity of water played upon it, and the snow lying on the roof, it did not receive any damage. The origin of the fire appears at present to be involved in mystery, for, as far as can be understood, it was first seen in a part of the range of buildings near which there is no fire-place. The total extent of the loss of property is estimated from £15,000 to £20,000. During the time of the drums beating to arms, the officer commanding, Sir Michael Creigh, K.H.G., officer of the 11th Regiment, was at a grand entertainment given by the officers of the regiment at which there was upwards of one hundred officers attending, many of whom repaired from the ball-room to the scene of destruction in their full dress.

DARING ROBBERY.—On Monday night, between eleven and twelve o'clock, a most daring robbery of property, to the amount of nearly £400, was com mitted by some thieves getting clear off with a box containing jewellery, linen, plate, silk, and valuable shawls, belonging to a French lady and gen tleman, who had just arrived at the terminus of the Dover Railway, from the Continent. The robbery was committed between the station and the Waterloo-road. It appears that the gentleman had two boxes, containing an immense deal of valuable property, placed on the top of the fly. The boxes were both safe when the fly left the railway, and the gentleman de sired to be driven to one of the foreign hotels at the west-end of the town, but when in the Waterloo road, one of the boxes containing the above valu able property was suddenly missed. How the box could have been removed from the carriage remains a mystery, for they were so secured that it was impossible for the box to have fallen off. There was no person outside with the driver, nor did he stop anywhere on the road. Besides the property already enumerated, the missing box contained a considerable sum in gold.

SUICIDE BY A BOY.—On Tuesday Mr. Wakley held an inquest at the Lion and Lamb, Drummond-crescent, Euston-square, on the body of Thos. Press, a boy aged 14, the son of a cow-keeper, who committed suicide. Jas. Press, the brother of deceased, said he resided with his parents at 43, Drummond crescent. The deceased went to school, and occasionally assisted in carry ing out milk. On Friday, at dinner time, it was discovered that he had been playing truant, and had appropriated some money belonging to his parents to his own use, and spent it amongst some other boys. This coming to his father's knowledge he boxed his ears, declared he should have no dinner, and threatened to beat him. Shortly before two o'clock deceased's mother gave him some dinner, and then told him to wash himself, which he did. About half-past three the same afternoon witness went into the yard, and observed the cow-shed open, and on entering he discovered the deceased hanging by his neckerchief from a beam. Witness gave an alarm, and Mr. Lambert, a neighbour, and his mother, came and cut deceased down. He was quite dead, and in order to effect his object must have got on one of the rails placed to divide the cows, and then jumped off. The Jury returned a verdict—"That deceased destroyed himself by hanging, but in what state of mind he was in at the time there was no evidence to show."

SUICIDE BY DROPPING FROM A WINDOW.—Mr. Higgs held an inquest at St. George's Hospital, on the body of Sarah Ann Oates, aged nineteen, housemaid in the family of J. Rawlins, Esq., of 51, Oxford-terrace, Edware-road. In September last deceased laboured under severe attacks of nervous headache, which deranged her intellect. Whilst suffering under an un usually severe attack she threw herself from a second floor window into the street. She was not rendered insensible by the fall, and in answer to a ques tion, she said, "I did it because I thought it would be a nice leap." She was removed to the hospital, in which she lingered in a maniacal state, and died on Sunday last of injury to the spine caused by the fall. Verdict—"Temporary insanity."

A WOMAN BURNED TO DEATH.—On Tuesday evening, Mr. Payne held an inquest at St. Bartholomew's Hospital, on the body of Mrs. Ann Lilwelllyn, aged fifty. Sarah Williams, No. 30, Guildford-place, Bagnigge-wells-road, said that the deceased resided in her house, and on Friday last, witness, hearing a loud scream, and cries of "help," ran down stairs and saw the deceased in flames. She raised an alarm, and Mr. Locke, one of the lodgers, ran down and extinguished the fire by the aid of a blanket. De ceased was dreadfully burnt all over the body, and no time was lost in taking her to the hospital. She said that she was dusting the mantel-piece, when a spark flew out and set fire to her gown. Verdict—"Accidental death."

FIRE AT WALHAM-GREEN.—On Tuesday night a fire broke out in the basket warehouse of Mr. Walden, at Walham-green. The fire continued to rage with fury, so that before the arrival of any engine the roof had fallen in; and when the one stationed at Fulham did arrive, it was ineffectual for a considerable time, owing to a want of water. Two other engines soon after

arrived, but were not brought into play. The result was the destruction of the building and the stock, value about £2000. We believe the whole was insured.

LAMENTABLE DEATHS FROM POISON.—A very melancholy occurrence took place on Tuesday morning in the Grove-road, Camberwell, by the ac cidental administration of oxalic acid, instead of carbonate of soda. About half-past eight o'clock in the morning, Mr. and Mrs. Montague, who kept a cheesemonger's and sort of general shop in the Grove lane, next to the George Canning public-house, sat down to breakfast in their accustomed way, when Mrs. Montague did the duties of the breakfast table. After pouring out two cups of tea, Mrs. Montague drank one almost at a draught. Mr. Montague partook of the tea, and complained that there was something hot in the teapot, and immediately called to a young man in the shop named George May, and requested him to taste the contents of the cup. The shopman did as he was desired, and jocularly said to his mistress that she must have emptied the pepper-box into the teapot. He drank, however, the remainder of the cup, and was nearly losing his life by so doing. In a short time after, the three, namely—Mr. and Mrs. Montague, and George May, the shopman, were taken very ill, when a surgeon was sent for by a neighbour (the landlord of the George Canning, who acciden tally heard of their illness), and Mr. Fox, Mr. Massey, Mr. Cooke, and other medical gentlemen, attended, and applied every remedy that skill could suggest for the preservation of the lives of the patients. The stomach-pump was applied, but only in one instance (that of the shopman) was it effectual. Mrs. Montague died in about one hour after break ast, and her husband expired at 2 o'clock. Mr. Montague was about 62 years of age, and his wife near 45. They had no issue from their marriage, but were supposed to live in a comfortable and amicable way. By what means the poison got into the teapot is at present a mystery, but it is supposed that the deceased, Mrs. Montague, had put it there, believing it to be carbonate of soda, which she applied to soften the water. From an analysis since made by the medical gentlemen it has transpired that the poison contained in the teapot was oxalic acid. Mr. Montague dealt in some few drugs, but no oxalic acid has been found on the premises since the occurrence. It appears that Mr. Montague was the first to find that there was something obnoxious in the tea, and on speaking of it his wife coincided with him in opinion, but yet drank her cup of tea.

FIRE AND LOSS OF LIFE.—On Wednesday morning a fire broke out at No. 2, Fletcher's-place, Islington, occupied by Mr. D. Bryant. The fire was soon extinguished, but not before a boy, three years old, was burnt to death, and part of the bedding consumed.

EPITOME OF NEWS—FOREIGN AND DOMESTIC.

It appears by a parliamentary paper just published that the total of the capital of the unredeemed funded debt amounted on the 5th Jan, 1844, to £772,169,092, and the annual charge thereon to £28,516,882. The amount of the capital of the unfunded debt in Exchequer bills amounted, in the year ended the 5th of January, 1844, to £18,407,300, and the charge for interest in the same year to £594,051. If the amounts of the funded and unfunded debt be added together, it will be seen that the sum total of the National Debt amounted on the 5th of January, 1844, to £790,576,392, and the total charge thereon to £29,110,933.

One of the papers received by the last Indian mail, the *Singapore Free Press*, alludes to the serious illness of the Emperor of China; and, indeed, mentions a report which had reached Canton of the Emperor's death. The Emperor is nearly 70 years of age, and has reigned 24 years, having ascended the throne in the year 1820. Should the report of the Em peror's decease turn out to be true, great changes may be expected in China ere long. One of the most important, as regards the commercial interests, will be the legalization of the trade in opium, which has only been, hitherto, delayed by the Emperor being too far committed in his opposition to it to give way.

The *Bremen Gazette* says that the different German States are at this moment occupied with a plan for the establishment of a uniform postal system for the whole of Germany.

Mr. Josi, the keeper of the prints and drawings at the British Museum, died last week at the early age of 44. Mr. Carpenter, the husband of Mrs. Carpenter the artist, is a candidate for the situation.

Letters from Rome state that the Pope's new treasurer finds the revenue of his Holiness in a state of the greatest confusion. Cardinal Torte, the former treasurer, has been recently dismissed, and it is found that he is a defaulter to an immense amount.

The *Gazette de Zurich* states that the Grand Council had de cided, by a majority of 106, that the Deputation of the Canton should vote for the expulsion of the Jesuits, and that the resolution had tended to tran quillise the Canton.

Mr. Ellis, of Barming, Kent, died last Sunday in his 76th year. Mr. Ellis was the largest hop-grower in the world—his plantations having at one period extended over as many as twelve hundred acres, al though, we believe, of late they were somewhat reduced in extent. Not withstanding the great extent of his plantations, he personally superintended the whole of them to the last.

The *Austrian Observer* states that three shocks of earthquake were experienced at Trieste on the 23d ult., the first at four o'clock, the second at 35 minutes 58 seconds after seven, and the third a few seconds later. It does not appear, however, that the shocks were of sufficient violence to cause any damage.

Letters from Hungary, dated the 17th ult., state that a corona tion of the Empress of Austria, or Queen of Hungary, is spoken of with some degree of confidence as likely to take place in the ensuing autumn.

According to information of an authentic character, the present state of health of the Empress of Russia causes the greatest uneasiness to the members of her illustrious family. The Empress has now for a considerable time been indisposed, and the shock her Majesty received by the demise of her daughter, the Grand Duchess Alexandrina, has made ravages in a constitution already suffering from a complaint, the result of which in spires the greatest fears.

It is stated in a letter from Berlin, of the 5th, in a Frankfort journal, that the report of the illness of the Emperor of Russia was not altogether unfounded. He is said to be affected with a jaundice, which does not confine him to his room, but yields very slowly to medical treatment.

A letter from Hanover, of the 1st, states that the Prince Royal, who had been for some time suffering from an attack of the eyes, has recovered sufficiently to be able to appear in public.

Accounts from the Simplon announce that this route has been for several days obstructed with snow. From the 13th to the 17th of Janu ary the weather is described as having been very dreadful. It had snowed without intermission in a whirlwind of extraordinary violence. On the 15th not a creature could obtain access to the *hospice*, which was in a complete state of blockade. At seven o'clock in the evening an awful avalanche, which was detached from the head of Schenhorn, descended upon the back and on the two lateral fronts of the *hospice*, dashing in thirteen windows and one of the doors. At Rottlich considerable damage had been done by the avalanche.

The *Augsburgh Universal Gazette* repeats confidently the report that the King of Prussia is about to grant a constitution to his subjects, and adds that something great and comprehensive may be expected from him on that subject.

The German Papers mention that the Queen of Sweden, the two young princes, and the princess, left Stockholm on the 30th ult., *enroute* for Norway. They also say that a uniform rate of postage has been adopted in Finland.

M. Rolland, the well-known Paris butcher, who for many years has been the purchaser of the "*bœuf gras*," exhibited at the Carnival, has gone to England (says a Paris paper) to offer her Majesty the Queen a round of beef, from the finest animal that has ever been killed in France.

A letter from Florence states, that the celebrated engineer, Count Marchetti Tomasi de Rieti, had formed a project for connecting the Mediterranean with the Adriatic, by means of a canal, which will be finished in five months.

Van Diemen's Land papers to the 26th of October, state that a considerable shock of an earthquake had been felt at Flanders island, a phenomenon rather rare in the Australian group.

Delton, condemned to death for the murder of an old woman, named Dejourge and her servant, and Grasset, who had assassinated the widow Hue, at Longvilliers, were executed on Monday at Versailles. Delton, on ascending the steps, declared that he merited his fate, and in a few seconds had ceased to live. Grasset was nearly insensible when he reached the place of execution. The executioner's assistants were obliged to lift him up the steps, and as they tied him on the plank, the unhappy man, happening to cast his eyes on the fatal knife, fainted on the instant. Almost at the same second the fatal blow descended.

Sir William Follett, the Attorney-General, arrived at Marseil les on the 7th inst, from Naples, on board the *Alecto* steamer. Sir William, on his passage, experienced very rough weather. During his stay in the Bay of Naples, the *Alecto* ran aground and lost all her boats. She was to leave in a day or two for England to be paid off, having been five years on the Mediterranean station.

An apprentice lad, on board an English vessel in Calcutta, had lately a packet presented to him through the Post-office, the postage of which amounted to about £2 sterling. It merely contained a newspaper, which some friends of his in London had enclosed in half a sheet of paper, and addressed to him, when his vessel was in London, expecting that it would find him in St. Katherine's Dock. His vessel, however, sailed before the letter could be delivered, and it followed him—first to Hobart Town, next to Sydney; thence to Bombay, Madras, and Calcutta; thence to the Mauritius, and, finally, back again to Calcutta, where it caught him, after having travelled thirty thousand miles, and occupied on its tour one-year and eight months.

NOOKS AND CORNERS OF OLD ENGLAND.

FORD HOUSE, DEVONSHIRE.

This fine old mansion, adjacent to the town of Newton Abbot, about 15 miles south by west of Exeter, is associated with one of the leading events of English history; for in one of the chambers the Prince of Orange slept, after he had landed at Torbay, on the 5th of November, 1688.



FORD HOUSE, NEWTON ABBOT.

At Newton Abbot, too, is another interesting memorial of the Revolution, a hexagon stone, which was the base of the market cross, on which the Prince of Orange ascended, and stated his acceptance of the call to the Throne. On the sides of this stone are sculptured his declarations respecting Protestantism, &c.

CHESS.

*. We have great pleasure in announcing to our Chess subscribers and readers generally, that we have secured the valuable services of Mr. Staunton, the eminent Chess Player, to edit the Chess department of the ILLUSTRATED LONDON NEWS.

ANSWERS TO CORRESPONDENTS.—“Juvenis.”—The following is the solution of the problem named:—

White.	Black.
Q ch at K B 6	K to R 3 (best)
Q ch at K R 4	K to Kt 2
Q ch at Q 4	K to R 3
Q ch at K B 4	K to Kt 2
Q ch at K 5	K to R 3
R ch at his 5	P takes Rook
Q to K B 6 mate	

“S. R. C.” Hastings.—Carey-street, Lincoln's Inn-fields.
 “J. F.” should be quite certain, before he sends his emendations. The mate cannot possibly be effected in two moves.
 “W. D.”—K P 2 is the better opening.
 “E. B. S.”—See answers to correspondents in our last.
 “W. M.”—Will he mention one problem in which the mate can be effected in less number of moves.

GAME Recently Played Between Mr. K—, (a skilful German Player) and an Amateur; Mr. K. giving the odds of Pawn and two moves.

Remove Black's King's Bishop's Pawn from the board.

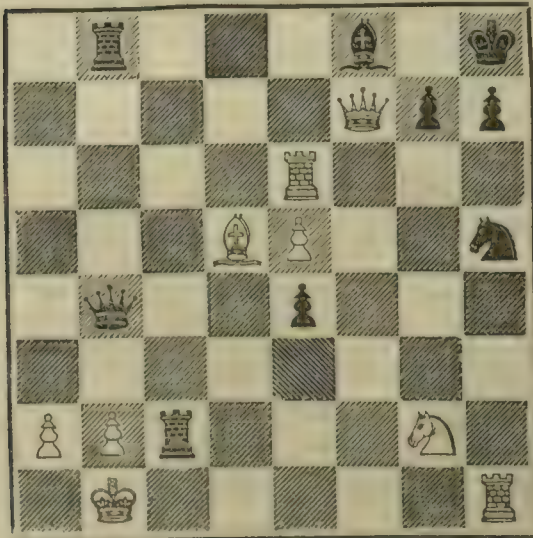
WHITE.	BLACK.	WHITE.	BLACK.
1. K P two	Q Kt to B 3rd	17. Q to K 3rd	K to Q 2nd
2. K B P two	Q P two	18. Q Kt to K Kt 3rd	K R P two
3. K P one	K P one	19. K Kt P one	K R to his B
4. K B to Q Kt 5th	Q B to Q 2nd	20. B to Q 2nd *	Q takes P
5. Q B P two	Q R P one	21. K R to Q Kt	Q to Q B 7th
6. B takes Kt	P takes B	22. K Kt to K	Q to her B 5th
7. Q B P one	K Kt to R 3rd	23. K R to Q Kt 4th†	Kt to B 4th
8. Q Kt to B 3rd	Q R P one	24. Kt takes Kt	Q ch on K B 8th
9. K Kt to B 3rd	K Kt P one	25. K to Kt 3rd	R takes Kt
10. Q to her 3rd	K B to K 2nd	26. R takes P ‡	R takes P
11. Q Kt to K 2nd	Q R P one	27. Q takes R §	Q ch on K Kt 8th
12. Q B to Q 2nd	Q to her Kt	28. Kt interposes	Q takes R
13. B to his 3rd	Q B to his sq	29. Kt to K sq	Q to her 8th
14. K to B 2nd	Kt to B 4th	30. R to Q R 3rd	R to K B
15. K Kt P two	Kt to his 2nd	31. Q to K 3rd	Q ch on K Kt 5th
16. K R P two	Q B to Q R 3rd	32. K to R 2nd	Q takes P ch
		33. Q interposes	R ch winning a piece and the game.

Solution to Problem No. 59.

WHITE.	BLACK.
1. King to K B 3rd	K to Q B 4th
2. King to K B 4th	K to Q 4th
3. Bp to Q Kt 4th	K takes Kt
4. Rook to Q 6th mate	

Problem No. 60.

Problem for Beginners. From “Le Palamede” Jan. 15.
 White to move and win in five moves



WHITE.

* 20th move—White left the Pawn *en prise* on purpose to win the Queen.
 † 23rd move—Black's Queen seems to be lost now, but his next move leads to a very interesting position, wherein White cannot take the Q without disadvantage. If after the 23rd move of black, white plays Q to King's Bishop 3rd, black takes Queen's Pawn, and if white plays Q to her Rook's 3rd, black takes Queen's Bishop's Pawn, and black wins at least three pawns for a piece and a very good position. The best move of white would probably be 24 Rook takes Q.
 ‡ 26—White ought not to have taken this Pawn; he loses time, which enables his adversary to open a decisive attack.
 § 27—If white King to Rook's 3rd, black checks with Bishop on King Bishop's sq, winning easily. If white King to Bishop's 3rd, Rook checks Queen and King; if then Queen takes the Rook, Bishop retakes and white cannot take Queen's Pawn with the Rook, the Queen threatening check on King's Bishop's 5th retaking the Rook.



REMOVAL OF KING'S CROSS.

REMOVAL OF KING'S CROSS.

What strange mutations does the hand of “public improvement” work in our metropolis. Less than a score of years have rolled away since a very anomalous pile was reared at the point where meet the New-road, Maiden-lane, Pentonville-hill, the Gray's Inn-road, &c.; the spot receiving the somewhat grandiloquent name of “King's Cross.” The building boasted, however, of correspondent pretension; the lower story was classically embellished, as the portion in our engraving shows; the upper stories were less ornate; but, if the expression be allowable, the structure was crowned with a composition statue of the Fourth George—and a very sorry representative of one who was every inch a king. The pennyworths of artistical information, doled out from week to week, soon taught the people that the above was a very uncomplimentary effigy of majesty; even the very cabmen grew critical; the watermen (*aquarii*) jeered; and the omnibus drivers ridiculed royalty in so parlous a state, at length the statue was removed *in toto*, or rather by piecemeal.

We cannot tax our memory with the uses to which the building itself has been appropriated; now a place of exhibition, then a police-station, and last of all (to come to the dregs of the subject) a beer-shop. Happily, our artist seized upon the modern antique just in time for rescue from oblivion; and his sketch is far more picturesque than would be “a proper house and home.” The “time to pull down” at length arrived; the strange pile has

been cleared away; and, lest a future generation should ask “where the fabric stood,” we have consigned its whereabouts to our columns. The dome-topped house in the distance will serve to identify the spot with our own times: it is in the Regent-street-cum-Gray's-Inn-road style.

THE ROYAL ACADEMY.—On Monday last, a general assembly of the academicians of the Royal Academy of Arts was held at their apartments in Trafalgar-square, when Charles Landseer, Esq., was duly elected a Royal Academician, in the room of Henry Perronet Briggs, Esq., deceased.

THE BOROUGH OF SOUTHWARK.—We understand that Sir W. Molesworth intends to offer himself for the borough of Southwark at the first vacancy. Mr. B. Wood, we are sorry to learn, continues in a very dangerous state.

ST. JOHN'S GATE, CLERKENWELL.—This celebrated ecclesiastical remnant, the only one of the kind in the metropolis, is threatened with destruction, under the provisions of the new Building Act, complaints having been made to the overseers of the parish that it is in a state of insecurity, threatening the safety of passengers. For some time past, the lodge entrance to the old monastery has been tenanted as a public house, and it is apparently in a very dilapidated state from want of proper repairs and attention. A strong desire exists on the part of many antiquaries and the inhabitants of the neighbourhood, to restore this interesting part of the ancient building, and to convert it into a literary and scientific institution for the benefit of the inhabitants of the crowded district of Clerkenwell, in the same way as Crosby-hall for the City, as it might easily be made available for the purpose, and it is intended shortly to convene a public meeting on the subject.



QUEEN ANNE'S BATH.

QUEEN ANNE'S BATH.

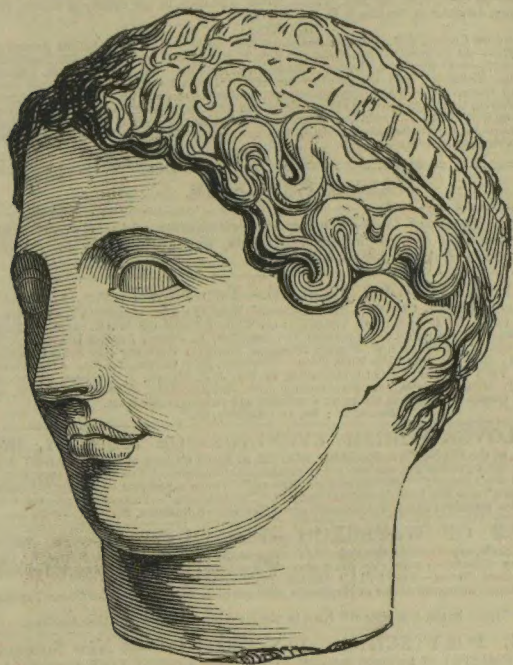
Public Baths are more numerous in the metropolis than is commonly supposed; as the pages of the “Archæologia,” the “Gentleman's Magazine,” and other antiquarian records testify. The specimen engraved above is thus described by a sensible correspondent of the *Times*:—

“In the thick of the once renowned ‘slums’ of St. Giles's there has existed one of the finest springs in the metropolis, which has been known to local fame, and esteemed for its medicinal properties for the last two centuries; and, if the gossip of tradition may be relied on, it was once the favourite *bagno* of Queen Anne, whose name it still bears to this day: it is to be seen at No. 3, Old Belton-street, between Holborn and Long-acre, in the direct line of the intended new street between Holborn and the Strand; one side of the street in question has already been pulled down, so that the bath

is now once again brought to light, though sadly shorn of its ancient splendour. It is a curious and interesting relique of bygone days; it is a large tank, paved at the bottom with black and white marble, and lined throughout with good Dutch tiles, of the time apparently, of William III. or Queen Anne, having a lofty French groined dome roof. Being supplied direct from the spring, which is perpetually running into it, so that it is always fresh, it is much used by the inhabitants in the neighbourhood, as it is supposed to be a good cure for rheumatism and other disorders, is a powerful tonic, and, from its colour, evidently contains a considerable trace of iron. The spring, from which the bath is supplied has been traced, I believe, from Highgate and as it does not appear to be known to, or treated on by antiquaries who have written on these matters, I have been induced to direct your attention to it, in the hope that such a valuable spring may be rendered available for the benefit of the poor inhabitants of this great metropolis.”

HEAD OF A STATUE, BY PHIDIAS.

We annex two illustrations of the very interesting discovery noticed in our Paris correspondent's letter of last week—the head of the statue of "Victory," by Phidias, which formed a part of the frieze of the Parthenon— which was brought over to Venice, at the time of Morosini's invasion of Athens, in 1687. The barbarous workmen, who, under the orders of the



HEAD OF THE STATUE OF "VICTORY," BY PHIDIAS.

ruthless invader, endeavoured to detach part of the pediment of the Temple of Minerva, loosened the whole, and it fell to the ground from a great height, leaving nothing but fragments like this head, which is in a remarkable state of preservation, considering the dreadful blow it must have received, part of the nose only and the back of the head-dress being fractured.

We mentioned, in our last, that the fortunate possessor of this gem of antiquity is M. Le Comte de Laborde. The discovery was announced in the *Constitutionnel*, in these very liberal terms:—

"Un précieux fragment d'une des principales statues de Parthenon, une tête de Phidias, est à Paris: elle appartient à un Français, à un homme de goût, et de savoir. Elle n'est point à vendre, et par conséquent elle ne passera pas la mer, pour aller s'enfouir dans quelque château inaccessible de l'Angleterre."

M. le Duc de Luynes, M. Lenormant, and M. Raoul-Rochette, have no doubt as to this head being from the hand of Phidias. Like all the statues of the Parthenon, it is of the most beautiful Pentelic marble; its size is



"VICTORY," BY PHIDIAS.

double that of life. The band which confines the hair is perforated for metal ornaments; and the ears are likewise pierced for rings.

THE THEATRES.

DRURY LANE.—BALLET OF LES DANAÏDES.

Mythology and classical fable have ever been rich in furnishing subjects for Terpsichorean illustration; but we did not think that the tragic story of Danaus and his Daughters could have been made the groundwork of a ballet, until the genius and ability of M. Huguot convinced us of the contrary.

The ancient tale has been nearly rigidly attended to. Danaus, an Egyptian King, being blessed with fifty daughters, had a brother in the male line who rejoiced in fifty sons. To consolidate the friendship of the families, it was determined that the fifty sons should marry the fifty daughters. But old Danaus being told by an oracle (or warned in a dream, as the ballet more poetically describes) that one of his sons-in-law would be the cause of his ruin, proposes to his daughters that they should murder their husbands "nuptiarum nocte." Forty-nine of them consent to the wicked deed, Hypermeatra alone saves her husband, Lynceus. There are various histories of Danaus—some to his credit, some to the contrary. The ballet-dramatist has chosen the most consistent with popular effect. To chain the guilty Danaus to an ever-burning rock, and consign the forty-nine suborned young ladies to the tortures of those three respectable old maiden sisters—Alecto, Megæra, and Tisiphone—has been found to suit the stage effect very well: but we read of another punishment to which they were condemned:—

"Urmasque frustra Danaïdes penas ferunt."
Oh! thus it is with ourselves:
How often do we fill the future up
With brimful hope and eager craving joy,
Then find, like Tantalus, a fleeting cup
Which all our dreamy pleasure doth destroy!

FRENCH PLAYS.

The St. James's Theatre has been flourishing during the week, and has been open every night. M. Lafont has firmly established himself as a favourite, and regret is felt by the habitués of the theatre, as the period of his departure arrives. This accomplished actor took his benefit on Tuesday, performing in "Le Chevalier de St. George," a clever *comédie-vaudeville*, with a part which allowed him full scope to put forward all his powers of acting in portraying the different passions; and so effectively did he employ them that he was twice called before the curtain by the audience. M. Lafont is in every respect a finished actor; and the perfect ease he exhibits in every character is not less remarkable than his consummate knowledge of the stage and perception of the finer phases in the part he undertakes. Mlle. Nathalie, who has played principally with him during his engagement, is also an acquisition to the company.

The great actor, M. Frederic Lemaitre, is advertised to appear on the 17th of the present month, together with Mlle. Clarisse. Nothing can be more satisfactory than the arrangements of the ensuing season generally; and



SCENE FROM THE NEW PLAY OF "THE PRIEST'S DAUGHTER," AT SADLER'S WELLS THEATRE.

Mr. Mitchell is deserving of all patronage for his exertions. There is a report that Mr. Macready is about to perform at this theatre on the off nights of the French performances.

SADLER'S WELLS.

Mr. Serle's play of "The Priest's Daughter," the plot of which we detailed last week, continues to be performed at this theatre with undiminished success. Our artist has chosen for illustration the last scene, in which Ambrose the Priest, having fallen a prey to despair at finding the plan for poisoning the Count defeated, he swallows some deadly poison himself, and at the conclusion of the piece he dies, repenting his own error and guilt, and blessing the promised union of his daughter and the Count; the group being completed by Madeline, in an attitude of despair.

PRINCESS'

We last week noticed the production of a lively "comédietta," "The Brigadier," which continues an attractive item in the bill of fare at this theatre. The hero (the Brigadier) is spiritedly played by Mr. J. Wallack, and is one *Bras-de-fer*, a soldier in the Royal Guards of Louis XV. The interest springs from his very close resemblance to the captain of his company, with whom, in the course of the piece, he changes habits, enabling his double to escape from an arrest under which he has been put by his colonel, and make his way to a convent, where the colonel's niece, with whom he is in love, is confined. In his new character, *Bras-de-fer* receives first the barber of the regiment, who being his rival with a little woman, to whom the soldier is, unknown to any one, married, makes a variety of complaints; and, secondly, has an interview with his wife, who comes to intreat the captain's pardon for their clandestine marriage, and a great deal of fun is produced by their ignorance of the real person whom they are addressing. Suddenly, however, the affair takes rather a serious turn, as the supposed captain is apprised that *Bras-de-fer* has crossed the enemy's lines, and brought on himself the punishment of death, the real culprit being no other than the captain who has visited the convent, which was then occupied by Austrian troops; and having represented himself as being followed by a body of troops, has put them to flight, and taken possession of their position. *Bras-de-fer* has to sign his own death-warrant, forging the captain's name; and, moreover, the colonel's niece, delivered from the convent, comes to his quarters, takes him for her lover, and he finds himself on the point of being forced by the colonel to marry her. (The illustration represents this very effective scene of equivocation.) The real captain, however, contrives to get near him, and an exchange of clothes takes place, *Bras-de-fer* being let into the scrape for which the captain was under arrest. The affair concludes

with the discovery that the enemy have been driven from their position in the convent, and *Bras-de-fer* is no longer considered as an offender, but as deserving of being raised to the rank of brigadier.

At this house, also, a translation from the French has been produced with success. The original is from the wonderfully prolific pen of M. Scribe, who last December brought out a two act *comédie-vaudeville* at the Théâtre du Gymnase-Dramatique, called "Rebecca," the adaptation of which has been entitled "The Carbonari," at the Princess'. The plot is by no means complicated, but at the same time exceedingly interesting. Rebecca (Mrs. Stirling), is the daughter of a jeweller in Parma. She is in love with the Marquis Palavicini (Mr. Fitzjames), a political prisoner in the citadel; and is also beloved by Ascanio (Mr. A. Harris.) His friends object to the union on account of her ignoble birth. In the meantime the Marquis is condemned to death, and he proposes to marry Rebecca, immediately before his execution, that she may be ennobled by his title. The situation here reminds us of a similar one in the first act of "Don César de Bazan." The ceremony is performed, when, to the dismay of all but Rebecca, the Marquis is relieved. He immediately applies for a divorce, which is granted, and stated to be irrevocable, as taking place between a Christian and a Jewess. Before long, the Marquis, who begins to perceive the excellences of Rebecca, regrets the step he has too suddenly taken: when all is at last made right by Rebecca confessing that she had for some time past abjured her faith, and was now a Christian. There was a comic underplot cleverly sustained by Mr. Compton and Miss Emma Stanley, but the chief praise must be awarded to Mrs. Stirling for her admirable impersonation of Rebecca. The character was in every respect suited to her, and she did not neglect a single point to make it effective.

On Thursday evening the legitimate drama made its first appearance on these boards under the auspices of Miss Cushman, a lady concerning whose success high auguries have been drawn from her reputation in America, stamped by the expressed admiration of our first tragedian. The part selected by her for her *début* was that of Bianca, in Millman's play of "Fazio"—one that was calculated at once to determine her rank as an actress. Almost the first impression which Miss Cushman gives is that of a marked resemblance to Mr. Macready in face, and occasionally in her manner and the tones of her voice. She has a tall and well proportioned figure, a commanding deportment, and features which, although not regular, bear an impress of unusual intelligence. The qualities which distinguish her acting are, a complete identification with the character she assumes, impressiveness without rant, and a natural filling up of a well-conceived outline. The peculiar absence of anything like exaggerated declamation, which we are unfortunately too much accustomed to, might convey an impression of tameness, were it not that, where the situation demands heightening in the performer, she evinces that her generally subdued manner is the result of discretion



SCENE FROM "THE BRIGADIER," AT THE PRINCESS' THEATRE.

FIRE ASSURANCE.
Fire Assurances are accepted at Home at the usual rates. The Company prosecute
Fire and Life Assurances Abroad on reasonable terms.
1st February, 1945. A. HAMILTON, Secretary.

VOLUME THE FIFTH OF THE ILLUSTRATED LONDON NEWS, is now ready, Price 18s., bound in cloth, gilt edges. May be had of all Booksellers, and at the Office, 198, Strand, London. Also, Vols. I., II., III., and IV., may be had, handsomely bound in cloth, gilt edges, or in numbers.

MAXWELL'S HISTORY OF THE REBELLION IN IRELAND, 1798-1803. Complete in 15 Parts, 8vo., bound, price 18s., with numerous Plates by George Cruikshank, and Daily and Weekly Portraits of the leading Characters. Parts 14 and 15 will be ready on the 1st of March.—BAILY BROTHERS, Cornhill, London.

VERINI'S ANNUAL GIFT FOR THE SPANISH GUITAR (the last Work of this esteemed Author, being only just completed at his late sudden decease), containing Italian and Spanish Songs, with English translations; together with Instrumental Pieces for Guitar and Violin, in Spanish cloth, price 6s. At J. GAZZARD'S Royal Seraphine Warehouse and Loggia Academy, 83, Soho-square.

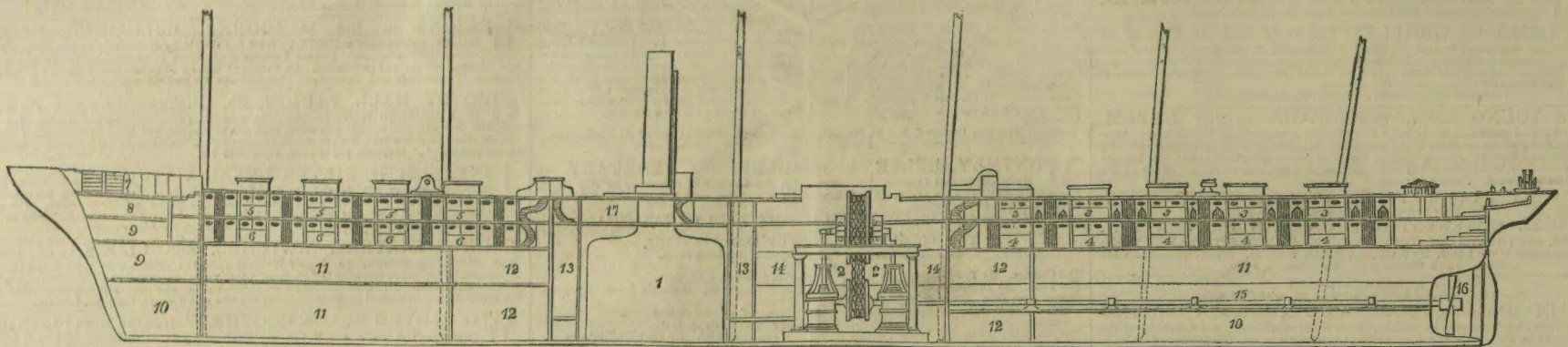
THE CHIMES QUADRILLES, the only Set as danced at Almacks, are contained in the "PIANO" FEBRUARY 7. Also, the Distin Family Waltzes, as played before Her Majesty. The favourite Crociavick and Cachouca Polkas. Popular Railroad Galop. An original Song. A new and original Mazurka. Seventeen Pieces of Music by the best Composers for 1st, 2nd, 3rd, 4th, 5th, 6th, 7th, 8th, 9th, 10th, 11th, 12th, 13th, 14th, 15th, 16th, 17th, 18th, 19th, 20th, 21st, 22nd, 23rd, 24th, 25th, 26th, 27th, 28th, 29th, 30th, 31st, 32nd, 33rd, 34th, 35th, 36th, 37th, 38th, 39th, 40th, 41st, 42nd, 43rd, 44th, 45th, 46th, 47th, 48th, 49th, 50th, 51st, 52nd, 53rd, 54th, 55th, 56th, 57th, 58th, 59th, 60th, 61st, 62nd, 63rd, 64th, 65th, 66th, 67th, 68th, 69th, 70th, 71st, 72nd, 73rd, 74th, 75th, 76th, 77th, 78th, 79th, 80th, 81st, 82nd, 83rd, 84th, 85th, 86th, 87th, 88th, 89th, 90th, 91st, 92nd, 93rd, 94th, 95th, 96th, 97th, 98th, 99th, 100th, 101st, 102nd, 103rd, 104th, 105th, 106th, 107th, 108th, 109th, 110th, 111th, 112th, 113th, 114th, 115th, 116th, 117th, 118th, 119th, 120th, 121st, 122nd, 123rd, 124th, 125th, 126th, 127th, 128th, 129th, 130th, 131st, 132nd, 133rd, 134th, 135th, 136th, 137th, 138th, 139th, 140th, 141st, 142nd, 143rd, 144th, 145th, 146th, 147th, 148th, 149th, 150th, 151st, 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INTERIOR OF "THE GREAT BRITAIN" STEAM-SHIP.

This stupendous steam-ship has been inspected by crowds of visitors during the past week. She continues moored off Blackwall, close to the terminus of the Railway, of which economical access thousands have availed themselves.

Although we have already illustrated the construction of this "interesting monster" (see Nos. 63 and 138 of our Journal), there remain to be described her interior fittings. Their style partakes of that plainness and simplicity which characterizes the entire vessel. In this respect consists her claim to

admiration, as well as in the vastness of her proportions, and the rigid utilitarianism with which *not one inch of space is thrown away*. In illustration of the latter, we annex two engravings, in which the situation of the machinery, and the general interior accommodation, are clearly seen at one view



SECTION OF "THE GREAT BRITAIN."

1. Boilers
2. Engines 4.88 Inch Cylinders
Promenade and State Rooms

4. Saloon and State Rooms
5. Fore Promenade and State Rooms
6. Fore Saloon and State Rooms

7. Officers Berths
8. Seamen's Berths
9. Stores

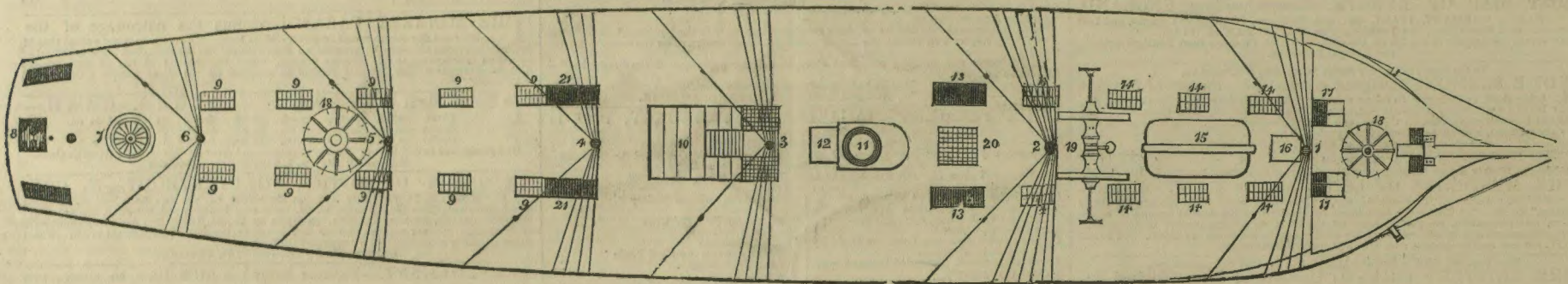
10. Water Tanks
12. Coals—there are also large spaces for coals running in on each side of the Engines

11. Cargo
and Boilers, also Berths for the Engineers, on the upper part of this space

13. Stoke-hole and Fire-place

14. Engine Room
15. Shaft of the Screw
17. Cooking Department

16. Screw



UPPER DECK OF "THE GREAT BRITAIN."

1. Fore Mast
2. Main Mast
3. No. 3 Mast

4. No. 4 Mast
5. No. 5 Mast
6. No. 6 Mast

7. Skylight
8. Steering Wheel
9. Lights in the Promenade and Saloon

10. Engine Room
11. Funnel
12. Entrance to Engine Room

13. Entrance to Fore Cabin and Saloon
14. Lights to Fore Cabin and Saloon
15. Life Boat

16. Fore Hold
17. Berths for the Crew
18. Captain

19. Windlass
20. Light for the Boiler Men
21. Entrance to Promenade and Saloon

The next illustration shows the Upper Deck of "The Great Britain." The third Engraving shows the Promenade Deck of "The Great Britain." The most noticeable peculiarity here, is the range of "lights" on each side of the vast apartments: these, in form, resemble "cucumber frames," and like them, are glazed, and admit the light to the Saloon and Cabins beneath. This Promenade is sheltered by the upper deck from the air, and

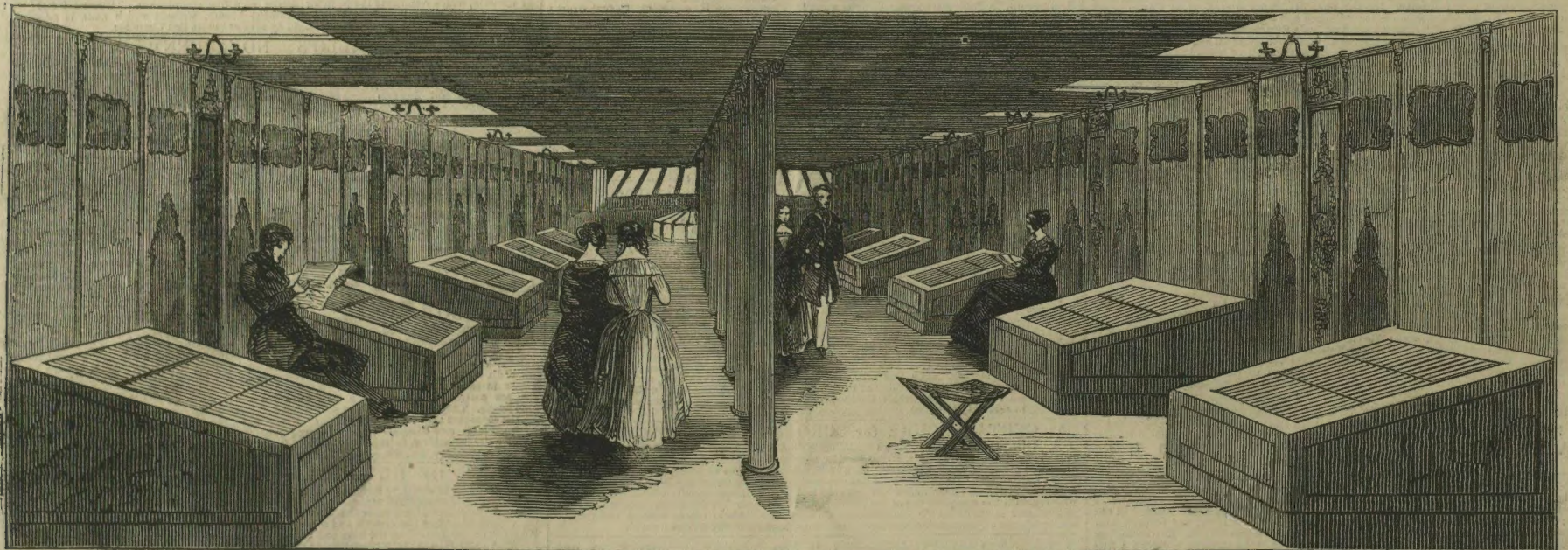
will, accordingly, prove a very convenient resort for the passengers during inclement weather.

The fourth illustration shows the Saloon of "The Great Britain." In this vast apartment, which is the main room, 300 persons can dine. There is little by way of ornament either in this Saloon, or in the Promenade. In both, the sides, roof, and supporting columns, are imitative wainscot with

a slight moulding around the tablets, on which are neat allegorical figures.

Probably, we cannot better conclude than by the following passage from a very able *précis* of the structural merits of "The Great Britain," in the *Athenæum*:—

"But we must descend from our promenade on the deck into the huge

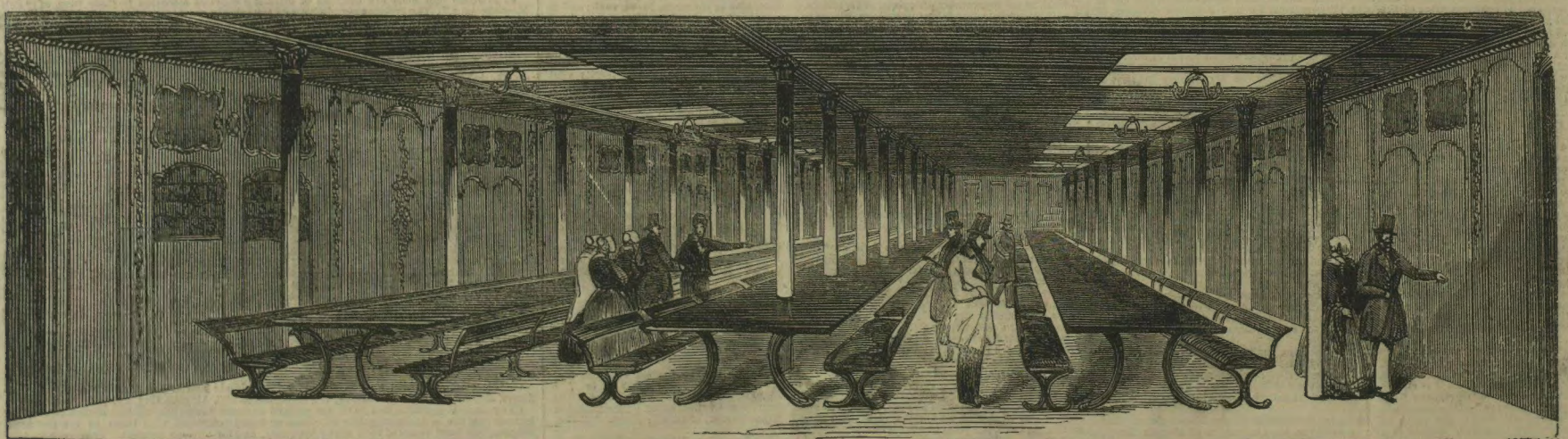


PROMENADE DECK OF "THE GREAT BRITAIN."

caverns, the cauldrons below. The first peculiarity noticed, is the engine and the enormous chain and chain-wheel for driving the screw. Four separate steam-engines drive round the axis of this monstrous wheel—two at one end of the axle, two at the other—the wheel between. The cylinders are placed apart at the bottom of the vessel, and the piston-rods, which issue out of them, converge to the end of the cranks of this wheel. Each pair of engines works one crank, and the two cranks are placed at right

angles; but the chain is the extraordinary thing; there are grooves on the wheel—at the end of each link of this huge chain there are teeth projecting into these grooves, so that as the wheel revolves the chain is compelled to revolve with it; at the bottom of the vessel, immediately below the great wheel, lies a little wheel or pinion, having grooves cut in its circumference of the same size, and at the same distance from each other, though much less in number than those of the large wheel. The same chain passes round

both wheels, and while the large wheel revolves by the power of the engines once, the small one revolves as much oftener as it is smaller. The small wheel has for its axis, the axis of the Archimedes Screw, which is attached to the after end of the axis, and protrudes through an aperture at the stern into the water. Its revolutions give motion to the vessel by their reaction on the water. Such is the Vital Principle of this Monster of the Deep."



THE SALOON OF "THE GREAT BRITAIN."